Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think a mass protest would help expedite solutions to the current power crisis on the island?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Blazing State
Hundreds of wildfires sparked by lightning flared Sunday across Northern California.

NATION...Page 15

Hundreds Dead
Thirty-eight wave-battered survivors from a capsized ferry made it to shore but hundreds more were feared dead in the Philippines.

ASIA...Page 16

$39M Debut
Audiences still get Maxwell Smart.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Alien workers charge NAP with discrimination. **PAGE 3**
Two more suspects in insurance scam fall. **PAGE 5**

CUC inks $6M lease for generators

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CUC's Power Plant 1

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has signed a $6-million contract to lease power generators from a global power rental company.

CUC will rent 15 units of one-megawatt power generators from Aggreko International. The move is seen to end the power outages on Saipan a little over a month from now.

The contract is for one year and it includes the generators, lube oil, personnel costs, and maintenance. The monthly rate is pegged at $504,000, for a total of $6 million a year. CUC will provide diesel to the company.

Aggreko will ship the generators once CUC makes a partial

See CUC on Page 4

Current status of CUC's power engines

POWER PLANT I

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Under maintenance since Nov. 12, 2006. Crankshaft replacement by MAN, expected completion June 6, 2008. Require Turbocharger unit (taken to unit #3)

Run hours after last overhaul: 61,019.0

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 5.0

STATUS
Operational (JCW High Temperature Alarm)

Run hours after last overhaul: 13,229.8

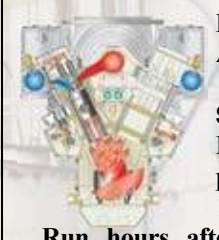
DIESEL ENGINE NO.3

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 5.0

STATUS
Operational (JCW High Temperature Alarm)

Run hours after last overhaul: 25,031.6

DIESEL ENGINE NO.4



Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Down due to crankpin seizure on July 16, 2005.

Run hours after last overhaul: 44,690

TOTAL: **DESIGN MW: 81.2** **AVAILABLE MW: 10**
STATUS: DCM contract involves the rehabilitation of 7 out of 8 units.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Down since April 12, 2008. Replacement of valves, injector, liner and cylinder is required.

Run hours after last overhaul: 31,156

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Down on June 22, 2008, due to excessive smoke coming from Cylinder No. 17, abnormal sound on Cylinder No. 1, and clogged water passage on Cylinder No. 2.

Run hours after last overhaul: 11,064.4

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 7

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Ongoing alternator repair being done by CISCO. Foundation repair completed by MHI. DCM is currently working on the mechanical overhaul of the engine and auxiliaries.

Run hours after last overhaul: 31,448.3

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 8

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Down on June 19, 2008. The unit auto-tripped due to lube oil pressure drop. Upon bringing the unit back online, water was noted coming out from Cylinder No. 15.

Run hours after last overhaul: 5,071.0

See CURRENT on Page 4

Local

House honors UMDA for its investments in NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday honored the United Micronesia Development Association for its investments in the Northern Marianas and in the rest of the Micronesian region.

"The Commonwealth and its people are grateful for UMDA's business in the Commonwealth and urge UMDA to make further investments in the Commonwealth to stimulate and rehabilitate the economy," the lawmakers said in a resolution presented to UMDA officials yesterday.

UMDA president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr., chairman Joe Lifoifoi, and directors Tony Ganngiyan, Eduardo Calvo, and Hiroyuki Saito were at hand to receive the resolution.

"We're very honored indeed to get the resolution and we take it very importantly as part of our history here in the CNMI," Snow said.

UMDA is a Saipan-based investment firm that invests in, owns and manages a portfolio of companies operating in the tourism, telecommunications, and airline industries.

The governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands are among the long time shareholders of UMDA, which is owned by over 1,200 Micronesian shareholders.

Its most active investment at present is the Palms Resort Saipan, formerly Hotel Nikko Saipan. UMDA purchased the 313-room hotel from JAL earlier this year. The company is currently negotiating with a major international hotel management company to operate the hotel.

"It is our commitment to Saipan and Micronesia that we will develop a first class facility for tourists and also for local use. We're committed to serving the local market and we are here for the long-term. We plan to improve the hotel to make it a fine attraction run by a very well known international company and at the same time, it will help create jobs in the CNMI," Snow said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the House of Representatives pose with officials of the United Micronesia Development Association after presenting them a resolution lauding the company for its investments in the Northern Marianas and in the rest of the Micronesian region.

UMDA was formed in the time of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, when it purchased a shipping cooperative to transport copra from Micronesia to Japan and import food and materials to the island communities.

During the late 1960s, UMDA invested in Air Micronesia. The airline company later merged with Continental Airlines, creating Continental Micronesia in the late 1980s.

During the 1990s UMDA made tourism industry investments in Palau and other Micronesian locations.

In 1997, UMDA acquired Guam Cable TV and Saipan Cable TV, creating a unified cable television system in the Northern Marianas. UMDA sold the cable the cable television company after eight years.

In 2005, UMDA bought LaoLao Bay Golf Course on Saipan, then sold it in last year to Kumho Asiana, which had promised to improve the property and add flights to Saipan.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that notice that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold Its FY 2008 3rd General membership meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Preliminaries
- **A. Roll Call**
- **B. Review & Adoption of Agenda**
- **C. Review & Adoption of February 20, 2008 Minutes**

II. Reports
- A. SRC Chairperson
- B. Committee Chairpersons
- B. OVR Director

III. Old Business
- A. FY 09 State Plan

IV. New Business
- A. Onsite Monitoring Review
- B. Local Matching Requirement

V. Consumer Forum

VI Announcements/Miscellaneous

VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language Interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY, Please contact Magin lginoef (Council Liaison) two days In advance for necessary arrangements.

/a/ **Gregorio Sablan (Kilili)**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

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Alien workers charge NAP with discrimination

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Foreign workers in the Commonwealth are charging the local food stamp office with discrimination, saying its staff has repeatedly withheld food stamps from them based on their alien status.

The food stamp program, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is required under federal law to distribute the stamps without regard to the recipient's national origin, as noted in several large posters adorning the walls of the program's office in As Lito.

Food stamps are a critical source of support for many foreign workers who have disputes pending with the Department of Labor, according to local activists, because the temporary worker authorization the department gives them until the dispute is resolved labels them as a troublemaker in the eyes of many new employers when they apply for new jobs, thereby preventing them from working.

Yet foreign workers—speaking on the condition of anonymity due to fears the local food stamp offices will cause them further problems—disclosed in interviews last week that they have faced a pattern of bureaucratic delays and discrimination when attempting to collect food stamp payments.

"Some of us have already given up because they give you such a hard time depending on your status" as a foreigner, said a 42-year-old former mechanic from the Philippines who has now waited through more than half of June for the $86 in food stamps he receives each month to feed his two children.

With each visit to the food stamp office, its staff have pushed back the schedule for this meager payment and ordered him to provide a host of papers that the office later lost and demanded again, he said.

Meanwhile, he added, most U.S. citizens "especially those from here, just walk [into the office] and say "Hi" and get paid," he added.

A 38-year-old Filipino mother of two and former garment factory worker shared a similar story, saying that she has repeatedly received less in food stamps than recipients who are citizens and have the same number of children.

"Local people are receiving more than me but they have the same number of babies that I have," she said, adding that many citizens who get more food stamps than her also have jobs—a factor that should reduce their payments—while she remains unemployed because of a labor dispute. "This is discrimination. It makes me angry. It makes me sad. People say that locals get more because they are citizens, but my baby is a U.S. citizen. So why are they giving me less?"

Many more foreign workers have reported discriminatory practices among local food stamp offices, including the offices on Tinian and Rota, according to labor activists.

Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group, said her group has received a slew of complaints from foreign contract workers about food stamp offices.

"We hear about it," she said. "It's sad to think that there might be this kind of discrimination, but we hear about it a lot."

Officials with the food stamp office did not immediately respond to several requests for comment yesterday.

Passenger in fatal Finasisu crash still critical at CHC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The passenger of a car that fell into a drainage along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Finasisu Sunday afternoon was still in critical condition in the hospital as of yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the passenger, James W. Mirefel, 29, a Yapese, suffered multiple abrasions, lacerations and bruises to the body.

Ogumoro said Mirefel has been admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center's Intensive Care Unit for serious injuries.

The driver, Paul F. Torwan, 34, also a Yapese, was pronounced dead Sunday at 2:31pm. He had multiple abrasions and lacerations to the body.

Ogumoro said alcohol was a factor in the crash and that speed has not been ruled out, too.

The vehicle—a white 1991 Subaru Legacy four-door sedan—had extensive damage to the front and middle portion.

Ogumoro said that DPS received a report about an auto crash with injuries near Ladera International School on Sunday at 1:50pm. Traffic and patrols cars responded to the scene. Medics and traffic investigators were then summoned to the area.

According to the preliminary investigation, the Subaru car being driven by Torwan was traveling downhill on Tun Joaquin Doi Road when it ran off the road into the westbound shoulder and struck the concrete bridge of a gutter.

Medics immediately transported Torwan and his passenger, Mirefel, to CHC.

"The weather was cloudy and the road surface, including the shoulder, was wet," Ogumoro said.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on June 24th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before June 24th.

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Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

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CUC

From Page 1

payment of $1.5 million. The shipment will come from the company's office in Singapore, and is expected to take 26 days to arrive. An additional 10 days is needed to install the generators and place them on Saipan's power grid.

"Our residents will experience no more load shedding and or brownouts," said Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

But the rental generators will not immediately benefit major hotels and other businesses that are not on the CUC grid at this time. Hocog said CUC is projected to be able to supply power to those businesses within the next two or three months.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said Aggreko will provide urgently needed additional power generation capacity while the engines are being repaired.

"We are looking for the Legislature and the community to support CUC's need for additional capacity to end the power outages, and we will comply with all procurement laws and regulations in bringing in additional power generation capacity from any firm capable of providing such capacity," Reyes said.

Muna sees CUC cost savings, sales increase

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will increase it sales and realize cost savings in entering a $6 million contract with a Singapore company for temporary power generation.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna told the media yesterday that the 15 megawatts that Aggreko International Projects Ltd. will produce would allow CUC to meet Saipan's current 41 megawatts demand.

Muna said this would eliminate load shedding and blackouts that the island is currently experiencing.

"Once you meet the demand, we don't have the load shedding issue anymore. [That] allows us to sell more [power]. We basically have power 24 hours a day," he said.

The executive director said CUC would also realize some cost savings, especially those incurred on personnel overtime and other expenses.

With respect to the contract's impact on the power rate, he assured that they are going to neutralize it and see what particular areas would allow them savings and an increase in revenues.

Muna said CUC needs to pay a $1.5 million deposit to Aggreko in three months.

Once CUC makes the payment, Aggreko will have a maximum of 36 days to set up the power engines near Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

"They basically provide maintenance. CUC's obligation is just to provide for space. We provide the space, they set up shop and we start paying 5 cents per kilowatt an hour. The only thing that we provide [Aggreko] is fuel," he said.

CUC can then either rest the power engines that are operable at Power Plant 1 or keep them in reserve, Muna said.

"It will allow us to protect those assets and not have further damage to engines and bring them into the rehabilitation cycle," he added.

Muna said with three proposers on the power rental project, two companies responded.

"We evaluated their proposals and found that Aggreko was the most responsive to our needs and the most affordable," the executive director said.

CURRENT From Page 1

POWER PLANT II

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 1.8

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0

STATUS
Waiting for ordered parts/maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 3

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0

STATUS
Waiting for ordered parts/maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 4

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0

STATUS
Waiting for ordered parts/maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0

STATUS
Down on June 22, 2008. For replacement of lube oil filters.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0

STATUS
Waiting for ordered parts/maintenance

TOTAL:
Design MW: 15.0
Available MW: 1.8
STATUS: Power Plant II was under rehabilitation by CISCO.

POWER PLANT IV

TOTAL:
Design MW: 20.0
Available MW: 14.4

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 3.5
Available MW: 0

STATUS
Decommissioned

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 3

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.0

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 4

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 7

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 8

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 9

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9

STATUS
Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 10

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2

STATUS
Operational

Total CUC installed capacity:	**116.2 MW**
Total CUC available power:	**26.2 MW**
Peak load noted in April	**41.0 MW**
Reserve/Deficit in Power Supply	**(14.8 MW)**

Note: Negative indicates the potential for load shedding. Data is based on CUC updates as of June 23, 2008. Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Graphics by Saipan Tribune

A BOY AND A FISH JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A child carefully crawls onto the shore and grabs a fish at the Susupe Beach yesterday afternoon.

Two more suspects in insurance scam fall

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Saturday two more men who were allegedly involved in the car insurance scam.

Xi Mao Zheng, alias Amao, 42, and Yuan Fu Li, 28, both of Shun Fa Auto Shop, were arrested in Koblerville for theft, theft by deception, and conspiracy.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo ordered that the bail shall remain at $50,000 each for the two's temporary release—as the court had previously imposed.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing for June 30.

Detective Patrick Earl Maanao stated in his report that the arrest of Zheng and Li was made after Serafin Esperancilla, who was earlier arrested, confessed to police his participation in the scam, implicating the two defendants.

Maanao said that Sgt. Hillary Tagabuel, who was also charged in the scam earlier, admitted forging a total of 41 traffic crash reports.

Maanao said that, according to Tagabuel, most of the TCRs he prepared last year was for his co-defendant, Yu Jai Feng "Lili" Cepeda and that he started dealing with Esperancilla only in January.

The detective said that interviews with the drivers or owners of some of the vehicles mentioned in the forged TCRs showed that they were unaware that their vehicles were involved in "accidents."

Based on the testimony of some drivers or owners of the vehicles, the investigators learned that defendants Zheng and Li of Shun Fa Auto Shop in Koblerville were using their vehicles in the fake accident claims.

In this scam, AON Insurance paid the auto shop for the repair of the vehicles.

Police earlier disclosed that three insurance companies, including Century Insurance, are victims in this scam.

Last week, the Attorney General's Office charged Sgt. Tagabuel, Mrs. Cepeda, and Esperancilla for their involvement in the scam. Tagabuel, Esperancilla, and Cepeda pleaded not guilty.

Maanao said that under the scheme, the average payout by the insurance companies were anywhere between $8,000 to $25,000 per traffic crash report.

Maanao said Tagabuel was basically being paid for traffic crash report and he was getting anywhere between $150 to $200 per report.

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FEMA to grant CNMI $38K to enhance emergency response

The Northern Mariana Islands has been allocated about $38,400 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund and improve the islands' emergency communications capabilities.

The amount is part of the $48 million under the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program that the Department of Homeland Security approved for release yesterday to benefit States, territories, local units of government, and tribal communities.

States and territories may apply for these funds through their State Administrative Agency by visiting www.grants.gov.

The priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding focus on the establishment of formal interoperable emergency communications governance structures and common planning and operational protocols, as well as the enhancement of emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises.

ON THE NET
www.fema.gov/grants

The DHS Office of Emergency Communications and FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate jointly developed the grant guidance for IECGP.

For FY 2008, the program will fund four key areas: planning, training, exercise, and personnel (including management and administrative costs).

All activities proposed under IECGP must be integral to interoperable emergency communications and aligned with the goals and initiatives identified in the grantee's approved Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan, as well as aligned with the goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan.

The IECGP funds will be allocated based on the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007": all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will receive a minimum allocation of 0.50 percent of the total funds allocated.

Further, four territories—American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—will receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated, which is about $38,400.

FEMA expects to award funds by the end of September 2008 and grantees are not required to provide a cash or in-kind match for these awards.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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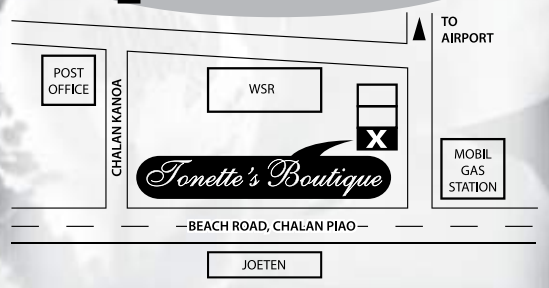

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Loosened election day alcohol ban sought

FLOODWATERS
A motorist braves the flooded street near JG Sablan on Middle Road yesterday afternoon. This road suffers from long-time flooding from runoff waters and drainage problems.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Election Day drinking will be allowed at major tourist-oriented areas under a bill now before the House of Representatives.

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos has introduced legislation to exempt major hotels and golf course resorts from the alcohol ban that is implemented every election day. A hotel must have at least 250 rooms to qualify for the exemption.

Under existing law, an alcohol ban is put into effect every election day, while the polling places are open from 7am to 7pm. Anyone caught selling or buying liquor could be fined up to $1,000 or sent to jail for up to 100 days in prison, or both.

Santos noted that the alcohol ban is designed to prevent conflicts from escalating between party camps during elections. She said that tourists visiting the Commonwealth on election day should not be restricted from buying alcoholic beverage, as they are not involved with local political affairs.

She added that the ban deprives the tourism industry of much needed revenue. "This is an industry that the CNMI has been largely dependent on for its economic growth for the past 30 years. Thus, our tourists' visit within the CNMI should not be hampered in any way," she said.

The bill does not specify whether alcohol sales on election day would be limited to tourists. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Man allegedly beats up his girlfriend during argument

Police arrested on Friday a 25-year-old man who allegedly beat up his girlfriend during an argument over money at their residence on Capital Hill.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa said a one-year-old child of the victim and suspect was present and crying when the beating occurred.

Emerson Claveria, 25, was arrested for assault and battery, interfering with a domestic violence report, and disturbing the peace.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo set a $2,500 cash bail for Claveria's temporary release and appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent him in the case.

Preliminary hearing was set for June 30.

Detective Ozawa said when the victim appeared at the Department of Public Safety last June 17 to file a complaint, a police officer observed redness in her face, arms, neck, and left leg.

The officer also noticed old bruises on the victim's left arm and left leg.

Police investigation showed that the incident occurred just as the victim and Claveria were about to go out for the suspect's medical appointment.

The victim and Claveria then started arguing over money. As the argument escalated, the defendant allegedly grabbed the victim's right arm and pulled her. Claveria also allegedly pulled the victim by the hair, prompting her to fight back by scratching him on the chest.

When Claveria held the victim's neck, a mutual friend who was present stopped him.

Ozawa said that when the victim tried to call someone on the phone for help, Claveria threw the phone to the floor.

The suspect allegedly tried to fight with his stepfather, who was trying to stop him from harming the victim.

When Claveria went out of the house, he punched a window, shattering it. As a result he injured his hand, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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* The above bonus and combined rates are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals from your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to Bankohana Checking account.
Bank of Hawaii
[1] $5,000 minimum opening deposit and balance required for new Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus accounts opened by June 30, 2008. Funds to open account may not be from an existing Bank of Hawaii account. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a $20 Shell Gift Certificate upon account opening. Limit one $20 Shell Gift Certificate per account regardless of the number of accountholders. Limit one per customer. Not available for existing accounts. Good while supplies last. [2] Current Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 5/12/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply.
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Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union
PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, June 26, 2008, at 1:30 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
May 15, 2008

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
A. Collection Status
B. Financial Report-Monthly
C. Operational Matters

III. OLD BUSINESS
Audit Status
1. Deloitte
2. OPA

IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. NACUSO Membership

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ **Frances A. Castro**
Chairperson

Crisostimo woos Dems in his delegate bid

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Luis Crisostimo formally asked the NMI Democratic Party yesterday to support his bid for delegate.

Crisostimo

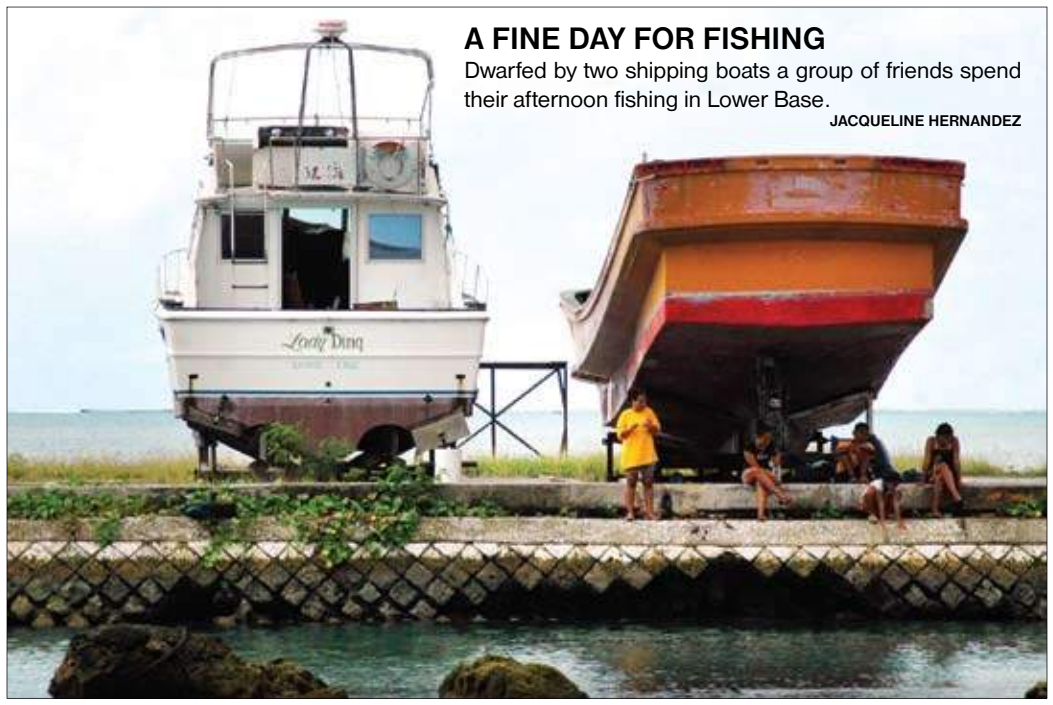
Crisostimo, a member of the National Democratic Party, is expected to face former Sen. David Cing in the contest for the local organization's endorsement. Former Rep. Manuel Sablan, president of the local Democratic Party, said the party will have to hold a primary if Cing makes official his reported intent to run for delegate.

"In light of this upcoming election for U.S. delegate, I earnestly submit my intent and desire to run for U.S. delegate under the Democratic Party banner. Now is the time for action, and our priorities must lie with our people—building the Marianas together, one heart, one voice, oneCommonwealth," Crisostimo said in his letter to the party.

His stated priorities, if elected to the U.S. Congress, are cheaper utility service, training for local workers, a better public school system, CNMI's involvement in the Guam military buildup, and promoting the tourism industry.

The NMI Democratic Party is hoping to get recognition from the national organization in 2009. The party has opened registration for new members. A new set of officers was scheduled to be elected at a meeting last night.

In addition to Crisostimo, those who have expressed their desire to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.



A FINE DAY FOR FISHING
Dwarfed by two shipping boats a group of friends spend their afternoon fishing in Lower Base.
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mazda SUZUKI HYUNDAI MITSUBISHI MOTORS

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Joey Mostales' Mazda3

*On approved credit. (O.A.C.) Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for details. **EPA estimated hwy mpg.

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
P.O. Box 501 127
San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,
-vs-
GLENN H. MANGLONA and ALOYSE M. MANGLONA, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 05-0068R

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Glenn H. Manglona and Aloyse M. Manglona in the following described real property situated on Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 326 R 09 (part of Lot 326 R 04)
Land situated on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a comer which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 9,008.485 meters North and 13,068.422 meters East of the Rota Coordinate System of 1970.

Thence N 63° 15' 37" E, 10.759 meters to Corner 2;
Thence S 87° 53' 42" E, 48.103 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 02° 30' 00" E, 56.904 meters to Corner 4;
Thence N 87° 53'42" W,47.810 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 13° 23' 28" W, 53.473 meters to Corner 1,
which is the point of beginning; containing an area of 3,000 square meters, more or less.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 18, 2008,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501 127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (1 0%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Glenn H. Manglona and Aloyse M. Manglona in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 11th day of June 2008

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

NMI students leave for drama fest

Thirteen CNMI students departed Saturday, June 21, for the International Thespian Festival being held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Two more students, already in the U.S. mainland for the NFL competitions, will join them.

They will have a busy week: staging two one-act comedies to be performed in the Howell Theatre and the Carson Theatre at University of Nebraska; attending workshops on all aspects of theatre and film; competing in individual events in monologue, duet acting, solo musical theatre, mime, costume design, set design, and film; and attending plays staged by the top student theatre groups in the nation.

The CNMI students who won the chance to participate in the ITS Festival by participating in several rounds of competition in the CNMI are Johnna Lubuguin (Saipan Southern High School), Ryan Gutierrez (SSHS), Richille Denora (SSHS), Miki Nadia Dela Cruz (Kagman High School), Sung Yul "Tommy" Baik (Marianas High School), Moon Hso Lee (MHS), Young Min Park (MHS), Myrene Evangelista(MHS), Matthew Wheat (MHS), Reece Brown (Saipan American Education Foundation), Royze Banados (Hopwood Junior High School), Dayanara Flores (HJHS), Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero (Mount Carmel School), Sung Woo "Jimmy" Baik (MCS), and Victor Sablan (MCS).

Their teacher escorts are Wesley Foster of MHS, Dora B. Miura of SSHS, and Shauna Brown of SAEFS. Harold Easton (MHS), the Chapter director, will join them as well. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row, from left, are Johnna Lubuguin, Dayanara Flores, Royze Banados, Anna DLG, and Myrene Evangelista. Back row, from left, are Dora B. Miura, Jimmy Baik, Victor Sablan, Tommy Baik, Miki Nadia DLC. Not in photo (still waiting in the check-in line) are Kyoung Min Park, Moon Hyo Lee, Matthew Wheat, Reece Brown, and Shauna Brown.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, advance computer and inter-personal skills, the ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment, the ability to prepare and review grant applications and annual budget, an in depth knowledge of the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands, and a working knowledge of history of the Micronesian region. At a minimum applicants must possess an undergraduate degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited postsecondary institution, although a Masters degree is preferred, and five years of experience administering federal program relating to the humanities. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 24, 1999

Northwest braces for more tourists
In anticipation of the influx of visitors this summer, Northwest Airlines would be replacing its current DC 10 aircraft to a B747 to accommodate additional number of passengers coming to Saipan. However, in exchange for the increased seat capacity, Northwest Airlines wants the Commonwealth Ports Authority to extend its incentive program until October 2000.

DPL, Rota Resort strike deal on lease extension
The Division of Public Lands has struck an agreement with the Rota Resort and Country Club regarding its request for a 15-year lease extension, but the deal has to be approved first by the Board of Public Lands and the Legislature. Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, yesterday expressed hope that it will finally resolve the differences between the two sides to push a plan by lawmakers to grant the extension.

Tinian 'tent city' to be shut down
The "tent city" on Tinian will be closed down soon after the last batch of illegal Chinese immigrants had left the island, but the Northern Marianas will still accept undocumented aliens referred by federal authorities, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday. He also said the island government is currently reviewing the total costs borne by the CNMI when it agreed to host nearly 500 Chinese, who were caught by U.S. Coast Guard attempting to enter Guam, while awaiting Washington's decision on their fate.

June 24, 2002

MVA reports growth in visitor arrivals in May
For the first time after the September 11 terrorist attacks, visitor arrivals in the CNMI in May reflected a positive growth compared to the same period last year, even if tourist arrival figures from its number one market-Japan-plunged by as much as 14 percent. A report released by the Marianas Visitors Authority showed a total arrival figure of 38,618 for the month, reflecting a 0.58-percent increase from last year's 38,394.

Straub threatens to turn down NMI patients-again
Alarmed over plans to review past unpaid claims, Hawaii-based Straub Medical Center is once more threatening to stop accepting patients from the CNMI if these unpaid claims are not paid in full anytime soon. The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is shrugging off this threat, however, saying they will only pay these unpaid claims once its third-party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, finishes reviewing the claims for accuracy.

EPA officials visit Saipan
Top officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9, led by administrator Wayne Nastri, visited Saipan yesterday and had a quick tour of the different environmental hotspots on the island, which included the Puerto Rico dump and the treatment site of PCB-laced soil in Tanapag. Local officials representing the office of Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Division of Environmental Quality accompanied Nastri and his delegation in the regional administrator's first visit to the island.

June 24, 2003

Power disconnection plan backed
Some legislators are not opposed to cutting off utility services to some government offices if it means keeping the delivery of utility services flowing to the vast majority of paying consumers who need power and water. Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication chairman Diego M. Songao said the government's failure to pay its utility bills has been a recurring negligence and may be a detriment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ability to continue providing power and water services to both public and private agencies.

NMC gets $3.5M for Pacific Gateway
The Northern Marianas College has received $3.5 million in grant money for its Pacific Gateway project. NMC Board of Regents chairman Vince Seman said yesterday the money came from the Governor's Office, which signed a corresponding memorandum of agreement with the NMC last Thursday.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING AGENCY CASES

June 20, 2008 First Notice — June 23, 2008 Second Notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

THESE HEARINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING DEPARTMENT RECORDS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING CLAIMS. If your claims have been haeard, settled, or withdrawn, or you do not wish to pursue your claim, you do not need to appear for the hearings on the schedule below.

If your case has already been resolved through a hearing on an individual labor case, the order in that case is binding and will be adopted in the agency case. There will be no different resolution through the agency case. If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Investigator, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
06-157-11	Aguilar, Gina H.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-813 E	Aranda, Marlou		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Ararao, Jimy C.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-155-11	Arcos, M. Digna M.	Rejoice Beauty Salon and Dress Shop	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-161-12	Arellano, M. Loreta M.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-158-11	Asakit, Chai	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Baldomero, Shirley D.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Baluso, Espie M.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-157-11	Barbosa, Nenita B.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Barraquias, Benefredo B.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Bi, Xiu Juan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Bronoso, Cenon C.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-330	Buerano, Razon M.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Cai, Zhongping	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Calage, Erwin S.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Casilla, Annie Par	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-150-11	Casimero, Marieta R.	Saint Trading	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-111-08	Chen, Faqiang	JM Sablan Co. & Tito M. Sablan	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
99-248	Chen, Qi	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-117-08	Cheng, Rongsheng	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-117-08	Cheng, Xiaoping	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Chunyu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	* June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Jiahong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Meiyue	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Mingjin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Pengyan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Dang, Thoi Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-157-11	Dedal, Alvin G.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Del Castillo, Jennifer M.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-080-05	Dela Torre, Mary Ann	White House Ent., dba Moon Night Club	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Delos Reyes, Ligaya C.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Delos Santos, Agerico M.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Doton, Lucita P.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Dowez, Monico D.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Esmores, Emma Q.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Evangelista, Celedonio M.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Fan, Chunyan	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Fan, Jingxin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Feng, Lin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Galsote, Eva C.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Gatdula, Yolisie M.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-094-07	Gomes, Nirmal	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-116-09	Gonzales, Erlinda P.	L and W Amusement Corp.	June 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Gu, Liwei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Guinto, Ambrocio R.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Gunnacao, Marieta P.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-076-06	Guo, Feng Zhen	Rongli Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-085-07	Gustar, Jose E.	Michelle Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-085-07	Gustar, Orlando E.	Michelle Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Hipolito, Leonila P.	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
99-249	Huang, Hong Ying	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-117-08	Huang, Jiawei	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Jetomo, Pablo V.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Hailan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Lan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Shanji	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-038-05	Jin, Shannu	Uno Moda Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Yinghua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-119-09	Kim, Jae Jung	M&L, Ltd. and Sky International	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Kong, Jun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Lactac, Jacquelene A.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-161-12	Larin, Estelito Z.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Li, Dongmei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
99-186	Li, Heng Xie	United International Corp.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Meiling	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Li, Ping	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-077-06	Li, Xiang Yang		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Xianzi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Li, Xiaofeng	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yafan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yinan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yingzi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Li, Yuxue	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-001-01	Lin, Guiyue	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
04-634	Lin, Huijuan	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
04-304	Lin, Ya Nong	Mariano K. Pangelinan	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-149-11	Liu, Haihua	CS Corporation	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Liu, Yan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Liu, Yue E	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Long, Xiaohong	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Lorenzo, Honeylyn S.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Lorenzo, Renante B.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Lorenzo, Susana L.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-003-01	Macaraeg, Jaime	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-009-02	Madrinn, Oliver M.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Magbanua, Riza B.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Mai, Tham Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-005-01	Man, Jinfeng	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
06-094-07	Masangkay, Remedios E.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-107-08	Matias, Daisy P.	Jones, Joseph	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-001-01	Mempin, Alex E.	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-009-02	Miguel, July T.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Mosquera, Merlita S.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-003-01	Nguyen, Kim Thuy Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-077-06	Ni, Weixin		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Oclarino, Agnes A.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-115-08	Oraa, Siony O.	Seman, Vicente T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-112-08	Pacho, Orlando R.	Sablan Enterprises	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Palaganas, Edwin C.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Pan, Hongmin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Parial, Aurora S.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Pasamonte, Wilson M.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Pesado, M. Mila C.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Piao, Fengjun	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Jiyu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Shunni	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Xiangshan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Qu, Dehui	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Raga, Mary Grace P.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
02-209	Rahman, Md Mostafizur	Island Security Services	June 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Repe, Jo-Ann A.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-009-02	Ret, Michelle A.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Rong, Xiaoyan	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Roque, Willy T.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Samson, Paquito V.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Sanarez, Shielyna S.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-161-12	Sanchez, Ireneo B.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-094-07	Santos, Jeanie DLC	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Santos, Rosalinda R.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Savellano, Jessie J.R.	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Shen, Li	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Shen, Yuanneng	&K Corporation	une 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-367	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Shuyan, Song	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Soriano, Rhiza S.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Sotto, Vivean D.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-152	Su, Xuejun	Magofna, Rosalina	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Suangsiri, Chomyong	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-111-08	Suba, Moises G.	JM Sablan Co. & Tito M. Sablan	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Chunhua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Haiying	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Jing	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-143-11	Surisantos, Antonio B.	Herman's Modern Bakery	June 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-001-01	Tala, Marie C.N.	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Tingson, Jeniffer M.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-158-11	Tuan-lam, Siriphorn	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Vu, Ngatthi	Winner's II	une 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-004-01	Wan, Yan Lin	Dela Rosa, Elinor; Xu, Hong Qin; Chen, Ce; and Hu, Min	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-095-07	Wang, Fang	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Furong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Wang, Jinghong	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-082-06	Wang, Li	Great Sunshine Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
99-249	Wang, Mei Lan	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Shulan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-163	Wang, Xan Zhen	American Sai Green Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Xiaowei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Xue	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Yan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Weng, Longgui	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Wu, Chunyun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Wu, Junmo	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Wu, Shanmo	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-244	Wu, Zhen Ming	Chen's Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-131-10	Xie, Bingxin	Li and Fung Exports, Ltd.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-634	Xie, Guangqin	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Xing, Wenlai	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Guibin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Guohua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.\	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Xu, Qian Jun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
99-249	Xu, Qiao Yun	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-112-08	Xu, Yufeng	Sablan Enterprises	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Zhenshi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-154-11	Xuan, Haozhe	Samsung Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Yang, Huan	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Yang, Meihua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Yanto, Rommel E.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-076-06	Yu, Min	Rongli Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zang, Zhenyong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-025-03	Zhang, Fu		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhang, Min	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhang, Xiangshu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhao, Xiujuan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-018-03	Zheng, Guo Zhen	YZL Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Zhou, Lu Yu	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhu, Guiying	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhu, Yanhui	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The Saudi spigot

When President Bush traveled to Saudi Arabia in mid-May to plead for an increase in oil production, his friend King Abdullah resisted him. U.S. consumers might be straining to afford gasoline, the Saudi monarch said, but the best he could do would be an additional 300,000 barrels a day, raising total output to 9.45 million barrels a day. Now, however, the Saudis have improved their offer. In response to appeals from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and others, the kingdom has signaled its willingness to open the spigots wider, by 200,000 barrels a day above what it promised Mr. Bush. After months of blaming the spike in oil prices on speculators, the Saudis have finally admitted, tacitly to be sure, that the root cause is insufficient supply. An official announcement of expanded production will probably come at an energy summit in Jiddah Sunday.

Why the shift in Riyadh? The Saudis have finally begun to worry that runaway oil prices are not in their long-term interest. For them the best of all possible worlds is one in which oil costs enough to ensure them a steady flow of huge profits but not so much that consumers switch to alternatives. But in the six months that ended April 30, Americans drove 30 billion fewer miles than in the same period during 2006-07, according to the Transportation Department. Toyota's first hydrogen-powered car just rolled off an assembly line in Japan. If this keeps up, the world will no longer be addicted to oil.

The question, though, is whether it is still within the Saudis' power to bring oil prices down dramatically. With 260 billion barrels of proven reserves—a quarter of the world's total—and an estimated productive capacity of 11 million barrels a day, they remain the likeliest source of fresh supply. But even an additional 500,000 barrels a day is only about half the increase in global consumption last year, almost all of which occurred in Asia. And it will take years for the Saudis to raise their productive capacity even higher, as they say they want to do. Some energy experts think the legendary Saudi fields are far closer to being tapped out than the secretive kingdom admits. Matthew R. Simmons, an investment banker specializing in energy, has published a much-discussed paper suggesting that Saudi oil production is already near its physical limits—a conclusion the Saudis vigorously dispute.

Given the world's dependence on their oil, it would be nice if the Saudis provided more information about their reserves, though we're not holding our breath. What can be glimpsed in these recent events, though, is a future political dynamic in the Middle East, one in which Saudi Arabia has far less leverage than it has now. In that future, Riyadh might no longer be the place Western leaders come, hats in hands, to plead for cheaper oil—and to offer gifts in return that range from indulgence of Saudi human rights violations to arms sales to military protection. No wonder the Saudis might be counting their windfall profits with one hand but fingering their worry beads with the other.

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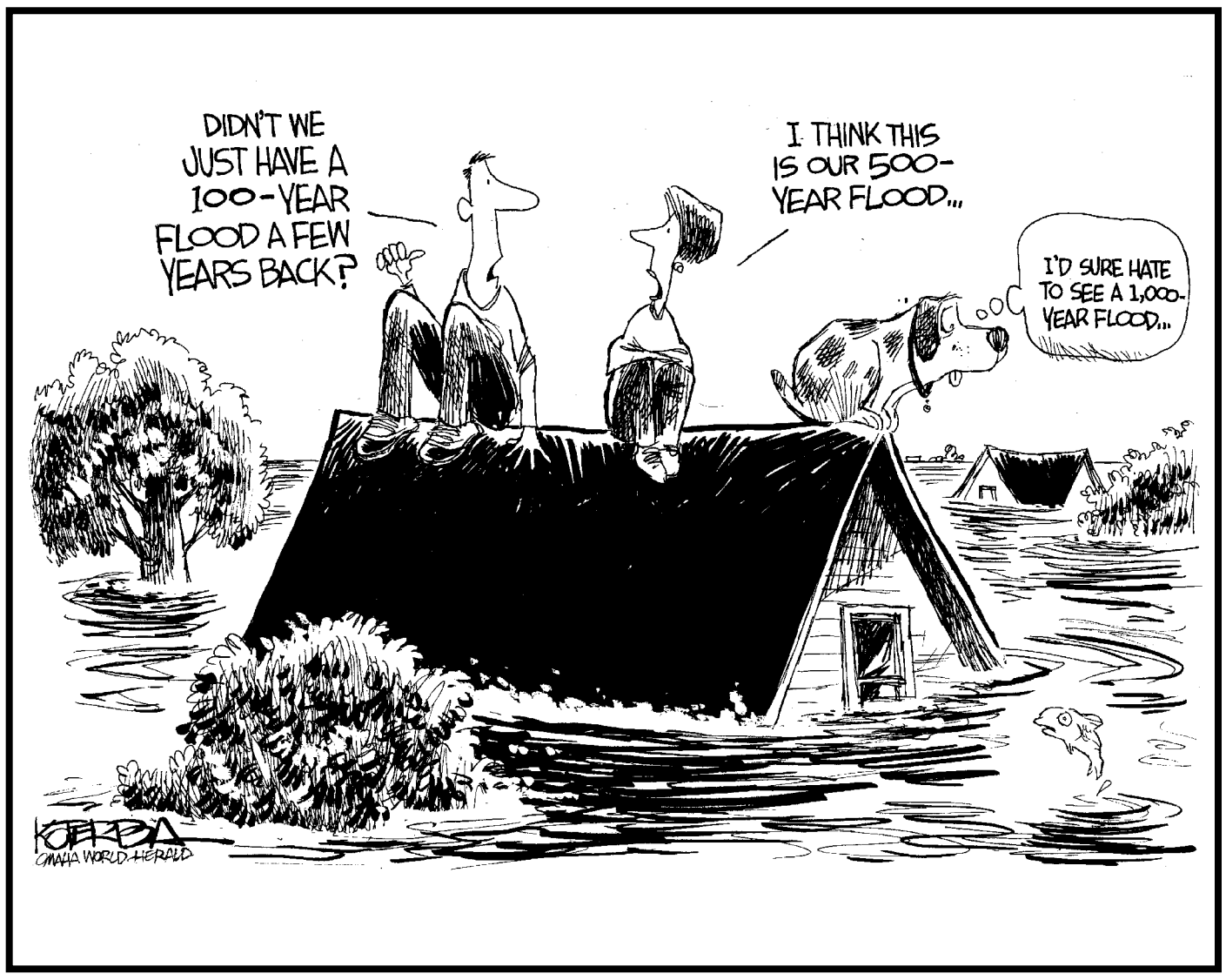
DIDN'T WE JUST HAVE A 100-YEAR FLOOD A FEW YEARS BACK?
I THINK THIS IS OUR 500-YEAR FLOOD...
I'D SURE HATE TO SEE A 1,000-YEAR FLOOD...
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

The CUC Blues

Creative power outages

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Part of our disaffection with CUC in recent months is a simple lack of communication. Ever since Pam Mathis left we have been experiencing dismal and unimaginative reporting of errors, gaffes, natural causes and bugaboos that are associated with our frequent power outages. What we need is a new public information officer over at CUC.

Now if I had that job you would read something like this in your morning paper: *ALIENS LAND, sap power from feeder 7. UFOlogists have gathered to touch the saucer shaped object in awe saying "See, we've been saying it for years!!" Power is expected to resume in the Marpi, San Roque and Tanapag areas as soon as repairs are made to the zirconian crystals aboard the craft. Captain Ffleebwoofzip, from Altair 4, apologized and said it was simply "common sense" that we should allow him to use a little of our power to jump start the craft and get his spaceship going again.*—Now that kind of story would make us all feel better about the rotting meat in our powerless refrigerators.

The next day we could have something like this: *TORNADO downs power lines in Chalan Kanoa—flying debris from Lil Knucklehead's trailer house seen careening into Hopwood Junior High injuring several students and shutting down power in the southern part of the island when portions of his bowling ball and used condom collection crashed into local power transformers. Power will be coming back on in a day or two as cleanup of drivel and slime from the demolished trailer continues day and night.*—See, that beats the heck out of: "Engine #4's radiator caused overheating and had to be repaired for the 29th time this week."

Your aircon may still have melted down during the 12th outage of the day and your fax machine may still be smoking from the last power surge but, by golly, wouldn't you feel a lot better about it if the excuse had a little zip to it? Sure you would. So please CUC, get someone to fill that PIO spot, and make sure they use a little imagination in those press releases. I can be reached at 670-28-Crank. I'll be glad to help.

■ ■ ■

Try not to help so much

Let's hope that Rep.Tina Sablan's latest endeavor at public activism turns out better than her last one. Last time between petitions and lawsuits, she and Cinta managed to force gerrymandering of voting districts to make government smaller, but forgot to do her homework. The result? Bigger government instead of smaller. Now, thanks to her direct intervention we have 20 congressional representatives for a diminishing population, instead of the 18 we had before she "helped" us. The cost to taxpayers is nearly a half million a year in extra payments to supernumerary lawmakers, not to mention the redistricting costs and the added election costs incurred. On the other hand, she ran and got one of those extra congressional seats herself, so I guess all was not lost, at least from her standpoint.

Now she wants to "improve CUC" using a similar tactic. I'm not sure we can afford to have her help us anymore than she already has. This time she may be costing us millions and her interference may cause just the opposite of what she intends, again. Can you imagine the power outages getting more frequent and the costs escalating even more as a result of this round of meddling? Well, can you imagine those extra two lawmakers sitting up there pontificating right now at your expense? They are.

A recent anti-CUC rally held at the Multi-Purpose Center to gain support for Sablan's demands is a case in point. While their five "demands" seem mostly reasonable except for an over-reliance on the Legislature, their methods to force the action they seek sound expensive and counterproductive. Notice also that a freshman member of the Legislature wants the Legislature to oversee CUC. Is this the same Legislature that passed innumerable pieces of bills "fixing' CUC over the years? Now we are led to believe that it will all be better because a freshman congressperson with six whole months of experience will be writing the bill? Ridiculous.

The five "demands" (think Moses and stone tablets –1 broken): 1. That a competent, certified utility management specialist should be hired to run CUC. Spot on. The sooner we do it the sooner the pain will stop. 2. That legislative "oversight" is necessary to make CUC successful and responsive. Ridiculous. The Legislature has passed, unpassed, repealed, re- repealed and re-passed uncountable bills about CUC for years. Results…nothing. 3. Privatization. Great idea. Been around for two decades. Simple to accomplish, if we keep the politicians out of the equation…all of them. Just put out a totally open bid request for someone to buy CUC outright. Then rely on a competent PUC to oversee and do watchdog duty over the successful bidder/buyer/owner/operator. 4. An Energy Summit where government types will decide what is best for us ornery citizens and make 200-page rule books explaining it to us. Probable farce. Possible incubator of some great new ideas. 5. Correct our water prob-

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

The only way we can survive

I want to respond to Rob Hunter's defense of the museum and the arts council. My comments during the CUC forum were not a direct attack on Rob or the importance of having a museum and arts council. I like Rob and I am no enemy to history and the arts. If any two things define my activities during the nearly 20 years I've lived in the CNMI, it is those two things. For one thing, my work is in the arts.

Not too many years ago I spent countless hours doing volunteer work at the museum. I've also been involved with several projects with DEQ, the Humanities Council, as well as numerous other projects that have contributed toward the understanding of history and culture. I also played a small role with the acquisition of the Hornbostle collection (bones and artifacts) from the Bishop museum.

My opinion was based on my own observations of the museum and arts council. This part pains me to say because I have long been a supporter of the museum. When I was doing volunteer work there, there were virtually no visitors. Constant flooding and air conditioning problems cost the museum thousands of dollars to fix. The only positive function it served was to be a repository for historical artifacts and it was a place for a few people to work. It was essentially a money drain. Less money could have been spent to store artifacts. I would hate to see it close down but many of the CNMI's essential services are suffering. We have to prioritize.

I still don't see the busloads of tourists going to the museum. If Rob says thousands of visitors go there each year then perhaps things have changed and I owe him an apology. I hope he's right. I would love to see the museum continue.

With regards to the arts council, I agree that the Flame Tree Festival is one of its success stories. Does it really require a year round staff to put on an event that lasts for just a few days? The annual art shows on the hill has been described by many local artists as "The black hole." Low attendance and dismal art sales hardly make it worth having. A few years back, I went to the arts council seven consecutive times to try and meet with the director. He was only there one of those times. Perhaps I just came at the wrong time, seven times in a row. I don't know. It was experiences like that that formed my opinion that the arts council was just a waste of money.

Rob's letter clarified a few things for me. If the arts council brings in revenues then that's a good thing. That needs to be taken into account. He's right. Rash decisions should not be made with regards to the importance of any agency.

My objective was not to single out any agency. I think my point was lost and its relevance to the CUC crisis wasn't understood. I should have taken my full three minutes of allotted time to explain.

Our only crisis is not the high cost of power. We have a bigger crisis looming on the horizon. Upwards of 80 percent of the CNMI's budget is spent on payroll. We are broke. The government has resorted to feeding on itself. They made government employees take a 10 percent pay cut not too long ago. They stopped paying tax rebates. They are borrowing from CUC deposit money. They don't pay their full share to the Retirement Fund. They also want to borrow several million dollars from it. They make it nearly impossible for private contractors to collect their fees. Essentially they are robbing money from the public to make ends meet.

I have it from the best authority (I won't name names because I haven't asked him if it's OK to quote him) that at the current rate we are going, it won't be long before there are payless paydays. Those holding government jobs will not be able to pay for their food, housing, medical care or bank loans. Our power crisis will pale in comparison. Because of poor planning and a lack of will to move people into the private sector, there won't be other jobs to fall back on.

I admire what Tina and Ed are doing to unite the public on CUC issues. It's not enough, though. We are in a deep crisis. We need to put on our FEMA hats and do everything possible to save our community. We are doing too little too late. We need to work on several solutions at the same time. Our elected officials should stop passing laws for a while and form a task force to address these problems. Come up with a plan that seeks both long and short term solutions. They need to work with and for the public. Not against them!

This is what I meant to say when I talked about the arts council and museum.

We need to do like any corporation does during an economic crisis. We have to cut back on all non-essential expenses and put our money where it's most needed, namely utilities, health care, education and public safety. I would add MVA. We need to trim the fat wherever we can. That means government leaders will have to make do with less too. A good place to begin is to meet with the Office of the Public Auditor. They know how money is spent.

We need to mandate that all government agencies conserve power. If we can save money maybe we can afford to subsidize CUC and save jobs.

We have to admit that we can no longer sustain a system that spends so much money on payroll. We have to get people into the private sector. Government leaders, business leaders and educational institutions such as NMC could work together to come up with a plan to phase people out of government jobs and into training programs that would lead to new careers in the private sector. Incentives could be implemented to make that happen. There is already a program like that in the works. Perhaps more could be done to improve it.

In addition to getting a qualified individual to run CUC, we need to get a qualified person to run MVA. Tourism is the only industry we have left. To increase our revenues, we need to do a better job at promoting ourselves. There are professionals like that out there. I'm told that Hawaii recently hired one. In addition to that, we ought to look at bringing in other industries so that our economy isn't so vulnerable.

Finally, our system of governance has one systemic and fatal flaw. It's not democratic. If the CNMI were a body, it would be like the liver is the only organ getting any nourishment while the rest of the body suffers. The liver likes it that way and it doesn't want it to change. The liver needs to understand that every part of the body is interdependent, that unless the rest of the body is fed, the liver will suffer too. We all need to come together folks and work for the common good of everybody. It's the only way we can survive.

Curt Klemstein
Chalan Kiya, Saipan

'We are one CNMI'

This is not an easy letter to write but I feel that we need to analyze our surroundings from time to time with the idea of advancing the community.

Several events and statements were made this week and several weeks ago that, while very subtle, nonetheless reflect the division within the CNMI.

First, several weeks ago, it was announced that the required by law training for new drivers in the CNMI will not be implemented on the islands of Tinian and Rota. Is this really possible? Is it constitutional? Aren't we all the CNMI? How can a law passed CNMI-wide be selectively enforced or not enforced for the convenience of some? Will those from Tinian and Rota that did not take the driving training program be allowed to drive on Saipan where the law is applicable?

Second, this week, a call came out that an attorney from Tinian should be appointed to replace the vacancy at the Superior Court so that the island of Tinian can be represented. Can't we just have the best attorney appointed? After all, isn't the CNMI one?

Interestingly, not too long ago, a Rota delegation stated that the CUC power rate should be the same for all islands as we are the CNMI. We all know that fuel cost is much higher on Rota and Tinian than on Saipan. How do we reconcile the above? Are laws and important discussions made for special interests rather than for the well being of the entire CNMI?

Going further, the CNMI anthem is not only very long but in two languages. What exactly are we saying? That there are two basic types of people in the CNMI? Yes, originally we were homogenous socially but not anymore. We are a very diverse community. Just look around.

Unless we are able to overcome the division within ourselves, we stand very little chance of improving as a community. We will continue to be our worse enemy. We will continue to undermine progress. Look at Guam with its diverse but united community. It is prospering just fine.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

A modest suggestion

Kudos are in order for Speaker Arnold Palacios. He recognized the obvious and took action. His task force to examine the status of all the outstanding CIP projects will be of great benefit to all the people of the CNMI. Letting all that money sit in the bank is not doing the CNMI any good. Moreover, it looks bad on the CNMI when we request funds from Uncle Sam and then don't put them to use.

May I suggest that he begin with those CIP projects that will produce the most immediate financial returns, such as the fuel storage system at the Tinian International Airport. Last December the DOI agreed to the reprogramming of Tinian CIP funds for the completion of infrastructure at the airport. They did this only because the new casino-hotel project was coming online and the Dynasty was struggling to survive without air transportation. The federal government agreed that by completing the airport and filling the hotels on Tinian, sufficient revenues would be generated locally to pay for the other needed local CIP projects.

Because the instrument landing system is essentially an FAA project, it is apparently on schedule, except for the need for a Brown Tree Snake mitigation plan, which has hopefully already been submitted.

However, the $2 million reprogrammed for the fuel farm has not even been touched. The CNMI will look foolish, again, if the FAA finishes the Instrument Landing System and then planes can't refuel when they land.

I do hope the Speaker will look into this problem immediately, keeping in mind that as soon as airplanes full of tourists begin landing on Tinian, significant needed revenues will be created for the CNMI general fund.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

THE CUC

From Page 10

lems—easy, spend the effort on getting the power on 24/7 so the water pumps can operate full time, then put Diego Benevente back on the job as our Water Task Force guy. We seemed to be making progress during that period. Focus on the electric power first, then bring all the guns to bear on the water problem, not before.

■ ■ ■

Can we make it worse? Yes.

Of the methods suggested at a recent rally to attempt to force positive action on CUC, the organizers, Christina Sablan and Ed Propst, suggest a class action lawsuit and/or mass billing disputes as a way to "get the attention" of the folks at CUC. Either or both will use personnel resources and cost CUC a lot of money. Lawsuits cost a lot of money, time and aggravation. Who do you suppose will pay for it? You will pay for it. Yes you will pay for those extra expenses as part of your power bill. Even if an award is won, someone has to pay that award. They will either tax you to get it or they will increase your power bill to get it. You will pay, not CUC, not the government. You will pay.

As for mass disputes where people frivolously refuse to pay their bills and cause CUC not to collect enough to pay for the fuel, who do you suppose will have to pay for that? Right again. You will pay, of course. This is '60s flower power activism at its worst masquerading as sound policy. Hogwash. You will pay, and pay dearly for the feel-good BS spread by these 200 interlopers refusing to pay their bills. You will pay for their bill and yours too. Ready to cheer them on? Break out your wallet.

Their third method, a favorite of theirs a ala last December's futility march, is a demonstration on Capitol Hill to expose the electric users, the Legislature and the Administration to the idea that there is a problem with CUC that needs correcting. No kidding. Do they think that no one has noticed there is a problem? How quaint. How ridiculous. At least it will not cost us electric users anything more for them to pat themselves on the back as "public advocates" and pretend to make a problem, already widely known, known. March away. March happily. Let's hope is does more good than the last debacle where we found those who will be thrown out of work and sent home by the Feds, marching to get them to do it. There is certainly nothing wrong with departmental accountability and transparency (the favorite buzzword this season) but marching does not get you there. Plenty talk. Plenty self aggrandizement.

■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: Did you ever see an unhappy horse? Did you ever see a bird that had the blues? One reason why birds and horses are not unhappy is because they are not trying to impress other birds and horses.

—Dale Carnegie (1888 – 1955)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79	▲88° ▼79°

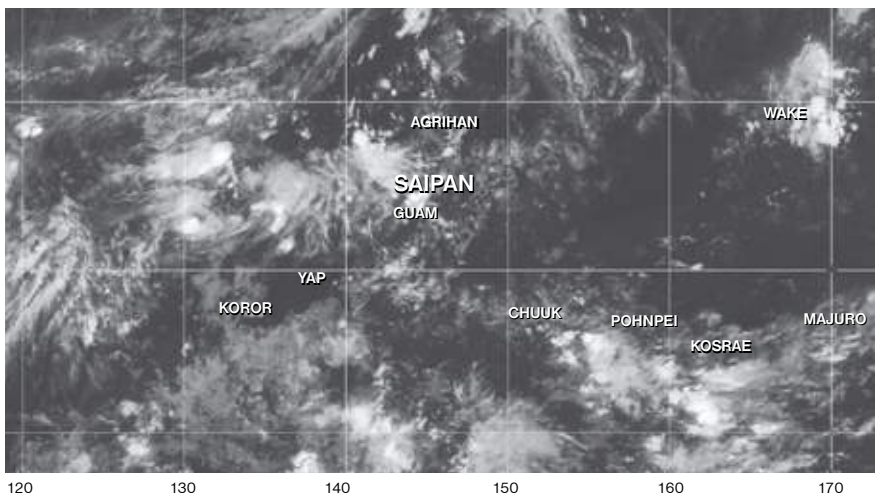
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲54	▼49
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼70
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲95	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼69
Paris	Showers	▲77	▼66
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼66
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲85	▼61
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲80	▼68
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 22N133E to 15N142E. Convergence associated with the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 21N130E to 15N142E to 17N142E back to 21N130E. An upper-level low centered near 23N146E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area that includes portions of the Mariana Islands and Minami Tori Shima or within an area bounded by a line from 24N146E to 17N143E to 13N148E to 22N147E to 21N159E to 23N159E to 25N151E back to 24N146E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror and Yap between the equator and 6N from 130E to 141E. A surface trough arcs northward from 4N145E to 12N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of Yap and Koror between 4N and 9N from 141E to 144E. Trade-wind convergence is also producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from EQ150E and 5N150E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae or within 250 miles of a line from 6N157E to EQ165E and over Majuro and the southern Marshall Islands or within 150 miles of a line from 4N169E to 8N175E to 8N180. An upper-level low east of Wake Island centered near 19N173E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Wake Island or within 125 miles of a line from 18N165E to 25N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:51AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:14AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:24PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:49AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:16PM	9:21AM
Wednesday	11:30PM	11:03AM
Thursday		11:25AM
Friday	12:08AM	12:48PM
Saturday	12:49AM	1:44PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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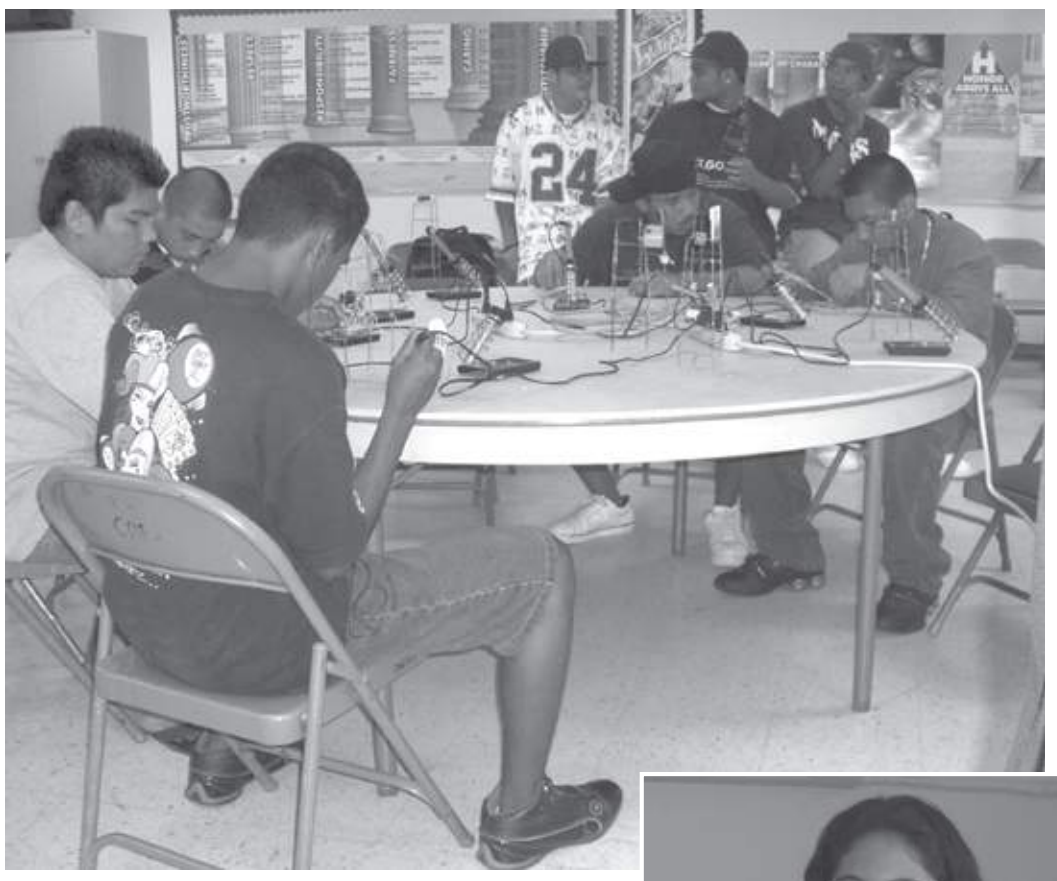
Island Snapshots

FATAL CRASH

Responding police officers and medics remove the driver from the white Subaru that was severely damaged after it crashed on a gutter along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Finasisu near Ladera International School Sunday afternoon. The male driver died in the accident, while his passenger was seriously injured.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



ELECTRONICS CLASS

Kagman High School students explore careers in the electronics and engineering field with the first basic electronics course now being offered at the school. Benjie Ladringan teaches the electronics course. The school was recently allowed to use $8,000 in vocational funds for the new course. There are currently 18 students enrolled in the elective course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUMMER JOB

Bryan Demapan, a member of CNMI AmeriCorps, spends his summer vacation working at the Children of Our Homeland Center of the Joeten/Kiyu Public Library in Susupe yesterday. Demapan is leaving the island on August to pursue a college degree at Central Michigan University.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

OPA INTERN

Porsha Dale Dela Cruz shows off the certificate she got after completing her volunteer internship with the Office of the Public Auditor. Dela Cruz served as an Audit Intern with OPA from May to June 2008. She is studying accounting at the Northern Marianas College and will soon continue her studies at the University of Phoenix, Arizona. Dela Cruz is the daughter of Dimis and Ann Marie Dela Cruz and a 2006 graduate of Kagman High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ECO CAMP

Participants in this summer's edition of the Eco Adventure Camp pose for the camera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Counselors of the Mariana Eco Adventure Camp mug for the camera at the Marianas Resort and Spa, where the eco camp is ongoing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER

Outgoing board member Tayna Camacho recently completed six consecutive years of service on the board of directors of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. "Tayna has been a great member of the Red Cross Board who has worked tirelessly to ensure that Red Cross programs are serving the needs of our community" said executive director John Hirsh. Board members can serve a maximum of two 3-year terms. Here, vice chairman of the board John D. Guerrero presents an award of appreciation to Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC FORUM

Ed Propst discusses short-term and long-term solutions to the Commonwealth's power crisis while Rep. Tina Sablan listens during the CUC community forum inside the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Business

‘Saudi willing to increase crude output’

BUYOUT TALKS AP

In this April 9, 2008 file photo, a customer walks into a Circuit City electronics store in Braintree, Mass. Investors hope to gain some clarity on the future of consumer electronics retailer Circuit City Stores Inc. at its annual shareholder meeting Tuesday. Adding to uncertainty created by the slowing economy is the possibility of a buyout for the Richmond-based retailer, which has seen only one profitable quarter since mid-2007. The company says many of its recent financial problems result from actions intended to improve its long-term stability.

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Facing strong U.S. pressure and global dismay over oil prices, Saudi Arabia said Sunday it will produce more crude this year if the market needs it. But the vague pledge fell far short of U.S. hopes for a specific increase and may do little to lower prices immediately.

For now, the current “oil shock” leaves Western countries with little choice but to move toward nuclear power and change their energy-consumption habits, Britain’s prime minister warned at a rare meeting of oil-producing and consuming nations.

Saudi Arabia—the world’s top crude exporter—called the gathering Sunday to send a message that it, too, is concerned by high oil prices inflicting economic pain worldwide.

Instead, the meeting highlighted the sharp disagreement between producers like Saudi Arabia and consuming countries like Britain and the United States over the core factors driving steep price hikes. Oil closed near $135 a barrel on Friday—almost double the price a year ago.

The cost of gasoline also has become a sore point in the U.S. presidential race, with President Bush and presumed Republican nominee John McCain calling on Congress to lift its long-standing ban on offshore oil and gas drilling. Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, has said such moves will do nothing to ease American consumers’ pain short-term.

The U.S. and other nations argue that oil production has not kept up with increasing demand, especially from China, India and the Middle East. But Saudi Arabia and other OPEC countries say there is no shortage of oil and instead blame financial speculation and the falling U.S. dollar.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said the kingdom is willing to produce more than the 9.7 million barrels of oil a day it had already planned to produce in July—if the market requires it.

But the Saudi oil minister also blamed speculators and asserted supply is not the problem.

Record corn prices mean more expensive meat, dairy

NEW YORK (AP)—Raging Midwest floodwaters that swallowed crops and sent corn and soybean prices soaring are about to give consumers more grief at the grocery store.

In the latest bout of food inflation, beef, pork, poultry and even eggs, cheese and milk are expected to get more expensive as livestock owners go out of business or are forced to slaughter more cattle, hogs, turkeys and chickens to cope with rocketing costs for corn-based animal feed.

The floods engulfed an estimated 2 million or more acres of corn and soybean fields in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and other key growing states, sending world grain prices skyward on fears of a substantially smaller corn crop. The government will give a partial idea of how many corn acres were lost before the end of the month, but experts say the trickle-down effect could be more dramatic later this year, affecting everything from Thanksgiving turkeys to Christmas hams.

Rod Brenneman, president and chief executive of Seaboard Foods, a pork supplier in Sawnee Mission, Kan. that produces 4 million hogs a year, said high corn costs were already forcing producers in his industry to cut back on the number of animals they raise.

Gas prices rises 10 cents a gallon over two weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—A national survey shows consumers across the nation are paying an average of 10 cents a gallon more for gasoline than they were two weeks ago.

The average price of regular gasoline at self-serve stations was $4.10 a gallon on Friday. Mid-grade was $4.22 a gallon and premium went for $4.33. That’s according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday.

The survey showed the average U.S. price for gas is $1.10 higher than it was a year ago.

The cheapest gas was in Tulsa, Okla., where the price for regular was $3.76 a gallon.

The California cities of Los Angeles and Fresno tied for the nation’s highest gas: $4.59 a gallon for regular.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: Citigroup to slash investment-banking jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup is preparing fire thousands from its worldwide investment-banking division, The Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. The Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, said the layoffs are part of a plan to cut about 10 percent of the staff of the 65,000-member investment-banking group. The Journal said the fired employees could be notified as early as Monday. The New York-basked global bank, along with much of Wall Street, is in the throes of recovering from bad investments on mortgages and leveraged loans that cut billions of dollars from its portfolio. It was not immediately clear if the reported job cuts would be in addition to cuts announced by Citigroup in April.

Wall Street balks as Fed’s tightrope gets thinner

NEW YORK (AP)—After the Federal Reserve’s meeting this week, the Fed policymakers are expected to voice a tough stance on inflation. Talk about poor timing. Though Wall Street’s inflation concerns have not abated—crude oil remains above $134 a barrel—worries about the health of the U.S. financial system and broader economy have returned in force. Last week, Citigroup Inc. warned that it expects substantial debt losses in the second quarter; two bond insurers lost their Moody’s “AAA” rating; Fifth Third Bancorp said it needs to raise $2 billion in capital; the broker MF Global said widening credit spreads will dampen its profit. This means the market is going to have a hard time stomaching any hint from policymakers that an interest rate hike is on the way. When borrowing gets more expensive, the economy tends to get even more anemic.

Talks on new Iraq oil law to resume this week

BAGHDAD (AP)—Officials from the Iraqi central government and the self-ruled Kurdish region in the north will resume talks this week in Baghdad to try to settle their differences over a proposed new oil law, a Kurdish spokesman said Sunday. Jamal Abdullah, spokesman of the Kurdistan Regional Government, said that the region’s prime minister, Nechervan Barzani, arrived in Baghdad on Saturday with “new proposals that could solve the pending issues on the oil law with the central government.” Abdullah refused to discuss the proposals but said that they are “flexible enough to settle all the pending issues.”

Prosecutors say SC scammers took $80M

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The three men, claiming to have been rescued from financial ruin by divine intervention, went to homes and churches across North and South Carolina spreading tales of financial rescue. With an investment of just pennies on the dollar, they promised an end to credit card debt, mortgages and hefty car loans.

And word of the “3 Hebrew Boys” spread. Small meetings in living rooms grew to fill church meeting halls and hotel ballrooms, with followers wooed, authorities now say, by promises of massive returns from investments in foreign currencies.

Tony Pough, Timothy McQueen and Joseph Brunson—three men who attend church together—created their endeavor in 2005 and named it after a tale in the Bible of three people who were thrown into a fiery furnace but spared because of their faith in God. Stories of their investment plan spread quickly thanks to believers who recruited new clients on military bases and in churches.

By the time authorities moved in, at least 7,000 investors from two dozen states had handed over $80 million. But barely any of it was invested—less than $40,000, according to state and federal officials—while the men bought a jet, luxury cars and tickets to football games, court documents show.

A federal grand jury indicted the men on 35 counts of mail fraud Friday and they were charged with securities fraud in state court last September. A judge has frozen $17 million the Hebrew Boys had in bank accounts and that money remains in limbo as the men await trial, which means investors aren’t able to collect any money until the case is resolved.

But some of their so-called victims have become their staunchest defenders, holding rallies in support of the men who face decades in prison if convicted.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,395.400 Down 16.400 (0.30%)
HONG KONG	22,766.04 Up 20.44 (+0.09%)
JAKARTA	2,360.782 Down 10.9939 (-0.46%)
TOKYO	13,869.07 Down 73.01 (-0.52%)
K. LUMPUR	1,206.67 Up 10.28 (+0.86%)
MANILA	2,499.38 Down 79.19 (-3.07%)
SINGAPORE	2,981.49 Down 20.32 (-0.68%)
SEOUL	1,714.68 Down 16.32 (-0.94%)
BANGKOK	759.40 Down 9.50 (-1.24%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,842.69 -220.40
NASDAQ	2,406.09 -55.97
S&P	1,317.93 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0468
British Pound	0.5069
Canadian Dollar	1.016
Chinese Renmbi	6.871
Euro	0.6407
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8051
Indian Rupee	42.971
Indonesian Rupiah	9265
Japanese Yen	107.435
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2645
New Zealand Dollar	1.312
Philippine Peso	44.484
Singapore Dollar	1.3647
South Korean Won	1034.3
Swiss Franc	1.036
Taiwan Dollar	30.399
Thailand Baht	33.415

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Texas town reels from horrific abuse in its midst

MINEOLA, Texas (AP)—In the windowless front rooms of a former day care center in a tiny Texas community, children as young as 5 were fed powerful painkillers they knew as "silly pills" and forced to perform sex shows for a crowd of adults.

Two people have already been convicted in the case. Now a third person with ties to the club, previously known in town only as a swingers group, is set to go on trial Monday not far from Mineola, population 5,100.

"This really shook this town," said Shirley Chadwick, a longtime resident of Mineola. "This was horrible."

Patrick Kelly, 41, is charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child, tampering with physical evidence and engaging in organized criminal activity.

In all, six adults have been charged in connection with the case, including a parent of the three siblings involved.

AP

This photo released by the Smith County Sheriff's Office shows Patrick Kelly.

Jurors this year deliberated less than five minutes before returning guilty verdicts against the first two defendants, who were accused of grooming the kids for sex shows in "kindergarten" classes and passing off Vicodin as "silly pills" to help the children perform.

Jamie Pittman and Shauntel Mayo were sentenced to life in prison. Kelly also faces a life sentence if convicted, and Smith County prosecutors hope for another swift verdict.

Thad Davidson, Kelly's attorney, said his client passed a lie-detector test proving his innocence and worries about getting a fair trial in Tyler, 25 miles southeast of Mineola, which is in Wood County.

"I think it's impossible to get a fair trial within 80 miles of Smith County," Davidson said.

Mineola, about 80 miles east of Dallas, is a close-knit, conservative bean-processing town of with more than 30 churches. Residents there want to put the scandal behind them as quickly as possible.

The one-story building where prosecutors say four children—the three siblings, now ages 12, 10 and 7, and their 10-year-old aunt—were trained to perform in front of an audience of 50 to 100 once a week has been vacant since the landlord ousted the alleged organizers in 2004.

Down a slight hill is a retirement home, and even closer is the office of the local newspaper. Doris Newman, editor of The Mineola Monitor, said rumors of swinger parties spread around town but that no one mentioned children being involved.

Newman, who can see the building from her office window, said she remembers the parking lot filling up with more than a dozen cars at night.

Midwest worshippers hear good news: River cresting

LOUISIANA, Mo. (AP)—The faithful gathered for church services Sunday in towns hard-hit by flooding along the Mississippi River, and many found comfort in word that the swollen waterway had apparently started to hit its high point.

Dozens of parishioners filled the dry Centenary United Methodist Church in Louisiana, a few blocks from floodwaters that still cover about 15 percent of the town's neighborhoods.

They prayed for aid and gave thanks for the volunteers, National Guard soldiers and prison inmates who helped the community of nearly 4,000 in recent days.

"And they all worked," the Rev. Jeanne Webdell said of the volunteers. "They worked for a cause bigger than themselves, worked to help people that most didn't even know."

It appeared Sunday the flooding in the town and elsewhere in Missouri and Illinois could soon give way to recovery. The National Weather Service said the Mississippi was cresting Sunday at Canton, Mo., not far from the Iowa state line, through the lock and dam near Saverton, about 100 miles north of St. Louis. Crests were forecast for Monday in Louisiana and Clarksville.

"It's quieter compared to earlier this week," said Louisiana emergency management director Mike Lesley, adding that sandbagging in the town had largely ceased. "Last night, I actually got some sleep."

But elsewhere, the river was still rising. The latest forecasts for hard-hit Winfield and Grafton, Ill., pushed back the crest to Wednesday.

"We're just trying to deal with it as it comes to us," said Jamie Scott, a dispatcher with the Jersey County, Ill., Sheriff's Office. "The crest (forecast) has dropped almost a foot, so that's a good thing. ... All of our levees are holding."

Officials in Lincoln County, Mo., inspected levees near Winfield by air Sunday after one was overtopped earlier in the day, flooding about 1,000 acres and fewer than half a dozen homes, said Lincoln County emergency management spokesman Andy Binder.

"It just blew through our sandbags," Binder said, adding that authorities are confident the secondary levees protecting the town and nearby Elsberry will hold.

Polygamist leader's daughter wants to hire a new lawyer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A convicted polygamist leader's teenage daughter, who was among the children removed from her sect's Texas compound during an abuse investigation, is fighting her attorney's attempt to shield her from a church official.

Teresa Jeffs, 16, is one of hundreds of children from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with an attorney appointed by a state judge as part of a child welfare investigation into allegations of abuse. Her father is Warren Jeffs, the church's imprisoned president and prophet.

More than 400 children were rounded up as part of the Texas investigation and later released. Teresa Jeffs denies allegations by her attorney that she was forced into a spiritual marriage at age 15 with an older man and that she has a baby. She told The Associated Press on Sunday that she wants a new lawyer.

But the court-appointed attorney, Natalie Malonis, believes Jeffs is being swayed by a church official.

On Friday, Malonis successfully sought a restraining order against church spokesman Willie Jessop, who she said was intimidating and improperly influencing the girl.

"I believe that (the girl) was avoiding service because of coercion and improper influence from Willie Jessop," Malonis wrote the judge.

San Ramon Valley firefighter Kevin Rawitzer works on a burned house in Watsonville, Calif., Saturday, June 21, 2008. AP

California firefighters battle hundreds of blazes

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of wildfires sparked by lightning flared Sunday across the heart of wine country and remote forests in Northern California, the latest batch of destructive blazes in the bone-dry state.

One had spread across nearly 6 square miles by early Sunday after starting the previous afternoon in Napa County and quickly moving into a mostly rural area of Solano County.

The fire threatened more than 100 buildings as it fed on grassy woodland about 40 miles southwest of Sacramento, said Roger Archey, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

It was 10 percent contained Sunday morning and had destroyed one home, Archey said. Evacuations were ordered for some residents, said agency spokeswoman Nancy Carniglia.

Wildfires have destroyed more than 175 homes in Northern California so far this year. Blazes started popping up in the region just as California's unofficial fire season began in mid-May, following the state's driest two-month period on record.

A blaze about 25 miles south of San Jose forced several residents from their homes Sunday, though officials did not have exact figures. That fire covered nearly 2 square miles and was only 10 percent contained. It also was blamed on lightning.

Thunderstorms were responsible for as many as 75 fires in Shasta-Trinity National Forest, about 160 miles north of Sacramento. They ranged in size from less than an acre to more than a square mile. None immediately threatened homes, said Forest Service spokesman Michael Odle.

Mendocino County had as many as 90 fires, ranging in size up to 125 acres, Cal Fire officials said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cat killed in Missouri identified as leopard

NEOSHO, Mo. (AP)—Missouri state biologists say a big, black cat killed by a sheriff's deputy has been identified as a leopard. James Dixon of the Missouri Department of Conservation says the cat was identified by the St. Louis Zoo. Newton County Sheriff's Corporal Donn Hall shot the animal when it charged him on May 19. A woman had reported the cat was scratching at the door of her home near Neosho. Leopards are native to Africa and Asia. Conservation officials say the cat killed in Newton County was likely a captive that had escaped. Owners of big cats in Missouri are required to register their animals but the sheriff's department says no one has reported a leopard missing.

Mayor: No support for claims of pregnancy pact

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (AP)—The mayor of a Massachusetts town says families and school staff have no information to back a claim that girls made pacts to have babies. Gloucester Mayor Carolyn Kirk plans to meet Monday with school and health officials over Principal Joseph Sullivan's comments to Time magazine. The comments came after 17 girls in Gloucester High School became pregnant this year. That's four times the usual number. Kirk says Sullivan has told city officials he can't remember his source of information. The Associated Press could not immediately locate a phone number to get Sullivan's reaction.

1st black La. Supreme Court justice dies at 84

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Revius Ortique Jr., a former civil rights attorney who became the first black justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court, died Sunday. He was 84. Ortique died in Baton Rouge from complications with a stroke he suffered June 14, current Justice Kitty Kimbal told The Associated Press. Ortique and his wife moved to Louisiana's capital after their New Orleans home was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. "I think he was one of the finest judges I every had the privilege to work with,'" said Kimball, who took her seat on the court in 1992, one day before Ortique did. "I never knew anyone who did not like him. He exemplified the word gentleman." Ortique had to step down from the court in June 1994 when he turned 70, the state's mandatory judicial retirement age.

Relief in sight from California heat wave

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Californians exhausted by a nearly weeklong heat wave looked for relief Sunday from the triple-digit temperatures that have strained air conditioners and power companies. Sunday's temperatures in much of the state were expected to be 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the day before, the National Weather Service said. Thermometers had surged all over the state on Saturday, reaching 95 degrees at San Jose, 105 at San Diego, 107 at Burbank and 107 at San Luis Obispo. Long Beach Airport posted a record high of 100. A fresh round of power failures sent repair crews back into the field Saturday, just as service was restored to most of the 8,000 customers blacked out the day before.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO returns fire following attack from Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says its forces have launched artillery across the Afghan border at attackers who fired at them from Pakistan. A military statement said three rounds of "indirect fire" landed near a NATO base in Afghanistan's Paktika province Saturday. Three more landed in an Afghan army compound. No casualties were reported. It said NATO forces determined that the rounds were fired from inside Pakistan and returned artillery fire. It said Pakistan's military was notified immediately after the initial attack.

Olympic torch paraded through Tibet

LHASA, China (AP)—Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops stood watch and hand-picked onlookers cheered as the Olympic torch passed through the Tibetan capital on Saturday, the scene of bloody anti-government riots three months earlier. No disruptions were reported, although the mood overall was far more subdued than at the torch's earlier stops in cities in China proper. The torch next travels to neighboring Qinghai province, also hit this spring by protests in Tibetan-dominated areas, before gradually winding its way across northern China toward Beijing on Aug. 8. The Tibetan leg was cut from three days to one, ostensibly to make way for an Aug. 3-5 visit to Sichuan province, the center of a May 12 earthquake that killed nearly 70,000 people.

No gambling for Chinese going to Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese visitors to Taiwan will not be allowed to gamble or engage in "pornographic activities," China's state news agency reported Sunday. The warning was issued by the Cross-Strait Tourism Association, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It follows the signing of breakthrough agreements on charter flights and tourism promotion between the rival sides earlier this month. "Travel agencies are not allowed to arrange gambling, pornographic and drug-related activities, and other activities harming cross-strait relations," Xinhua said. It did not explain what is meant by "pornographic activities." Citizens from China can only go to Taiwan with tour groups.

Premier: 2 years to rebuild Chinese provinces

BEIJING (AP)—Rebuilding in two of China's provinces hit by last month's massive earthquake should be complete by 2010, Premier Wen Jiabao said Sunday. The official Xinhua News Agency also quoted Wen as saying that regular life should be close to normal soon in Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. The two provinces were not damaged as badly as neighboring Sichuan. The epicenter of the May 12 earthquake was in Sichuan, and the majority of the more than 69,000 killed were in the province.

Indonesian parents facing poverty give up children

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A major survey of Indonesia's child care institutions this month found orphanages flooded with children separated from their parents not by death, but because of poverty. Staff at four Jakarta orphanages and a child protection worker say they expect more of these children as soaring fuel and food prices put greater pressure on already strained families. "They were already facing problems and the increase in fuel and food prices will certainly make it more difficult," said Florence Martin, a Save the Children child protection adviser in Jakarta. Indonesia has up to 500,000 children—or 0.6 percent of the country's roughly 85 million children—living in institutions, one of the highest rates in the world, the report said. Of those, 90 percent still have one or more parent alive.

Hundreds missing in RP after typhoon

AP

Residents salvage belongings from their damaged homes in Iloilo city, central Philippines on Sunday, June 22, 2008. Other photo a portion of the sunken *MV Princess of the Stars* off Sibuyan island, central Philippines on Sunday June 22, 2008.

38 survivors reach shore

By PAUL ALEXANDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thirty-eight wave-battered survivors from a capsized ferry made it to shore but hundreds more were feared dead after a powerful typhoon cut a violent path through the Philippines, triggering desperate rescue efforts Monday.

The death toll in flood-swollen communities rose to 163, police said, but most of the 747 passengers and crew of the ferry that ran aground then tipped over in stormy seas Saturday were still unaccounted for.

The 23,824-ton *Princess of Stars* was traveling from Manila to Cebu when it ran aground a few miles (kilometers) off central Sibuyan island then capsized, said Mayor Nanette Tansingco of Sibuyan's San Fernando.

Coast guard frogmen who managed to get to the stricken ship got no response when they rapped on the hull with metal instruments late Sunday, then had to give up for the night due to strong waves. They hoped to get inside on Monday, possibly with U.S. assistance requested by the Philippine Red Cross.

There were no details what kind of assistance was being discussed.

Vice Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo, the coast guard commander, said rescuers may have to bore a hole on the ship to allow access for divers.

Tamayo said 28 more survivors were found in Mulanay township in eastern Quezon province late Sunday—about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from Sibuyan. Ten others struggled to shore earlier.

Manila's DZBB radio said the 28 people, including four crewmen and three women, drifted at sea for more than 24 hours wearing life jackets.

Officials were checking reports that a large number of survivors might have reached one nearby island, coast guard spokesman Cmdr. Antonio Cuasito said.

Survivor Reynato Lanoria, a janitor on the ship, estimated about 100 people could have escaped the vessel, but thought the others were trapped inside. Lanoria said he was on the top deck when a crew member ordered people to put on life vests around 11:30 a.m. Saturday. About 30 minutes later, the ship began tilting so fast that elderly people and children fell on the slippery deck.

After the storm stymied earlier attempts to reach the ship and kept aircraft at bay, a rescue vessel battled huge waves and strong winds to approach Sunday, more than 24 hours after the ferry lost radio contact.

"They're scouring the area. They're studying the direction of the waves to determine where survivors may have drifted," coast guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo said.

The typhoon lashed the central Philippines early Saturday, setting off landslides and floods, knocking out power and blowing off roofs.

In the province of Iloilo, Gov. Neil Tupaz said 59 people drowned, with another 40 missing. "Almost all the towns are covered by water. It's like an ocean," Tupaz said.

Overall, hundreds were listed missing.

Packing sustained winds of 74 miles (120 kilometers) per hour and gusts of up to 93 mph (150 kph), the typhoon shifted course Sunday to the northwest and battered Manila at dawn, dumping heavy rain on the capital. Major streets were flooded, and numerous traffic lights were out.

Anthony Golez, deputy chief of the Office of Civil Defense, said the storm took an erratic path and never slowed down when it hit land with huge deluges of rain.

The typhoon-prone Philippines was the scene of the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster when the ferry Dona Paz sank in 1987, killing more than 4,341 people.

Deadliest maritime disasters in RP

Some of the deadliest civilian maritime disasters in the Philippines:

■ Dec. 20, 1987: In the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, 4,340 people drown when the ferry Dona Paz collides with the tanker MT Victor in the Philippines.

■ Oct. 1988: The Dona Marilyn ferry sinks in the central Philippines during a typhoon, killing 250.

■ Dec. 1994: A freighter slams the ferry Cebu City in Manila Bay, drowning at least 34 and leaving more than 100 of about 600 passengers missing. Rescuers pluck about 450 people from the sea, many coated in the diesel oil disgorged as the ferry sank.

■ Dec. 1995: Dozens are killed when the overloaded MV Kimelody Cristy catches fire off Fortune Island, southwest of Manila.

■ Feb. 1996: An overcrowded wooden ferry, ML Gretchen, capsizes close to shore of central Negros island, killing 54, including 31 children, and leaving 12 missing.

■ Aug. 15, 1997: The King Rogers, a sightseeing boat, sinks after being battered by strong winds and big waves, killing four Hong Kong tourists and 12 Filipinos. About 75 others are reporting missing.

■ Sept. 1998: The Princess of the Orient ferry tilts in storm-whipped waters near Batangas province south of Manila, leaving 70 dead and 80 others missing.

■ Dec. 1999: An overloaded MV Asia South Korea ferry sinks in the central Philippines, killing at least 51 people, including several Nepalese students. More than 700 others are rescued.

■ April 2000: The wooden-hulled Annahada ferry capsizes shortly after leaving southern Jolo Island, killing at least 87 people. Dozens of others are reported missing.

■ April 2002: Wind-swept flames engulf a packed inter-island ferry in the central Philippines, killing at least 23 and sparking panic among its 290 passengers and crew, some still waking up at the end of a 12-hour overnight trip. More than 90 are injured and 13 reported missing.

■ Feb. 2004: A bomb believed to have been planted by al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf extremists explode aboard the Superferry 14 near Manila Bay, igniting an inferno that kills 116 people in Southeast Asia's second-worst terrorist attack.

■ June 21, 2008: The MV Princess of the Stars, a 23,824-ton ferry, capsizes off central Sibuyan Island in a typhoon. Villagers find six bodies, while only four survivors are found in the initial hours of search efforts. ***(The Associated Press)***

World

Female suicide bomber kills 15 in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A female suicide bomber concealing explosives beneath her black robe struck outside a government complex northeast of Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least 15 people and wounding more than 40, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

It was the 21st suicide mission carried out by a woman in Iraq this year, the U.S. military said, as al-Qaida and other Sunni militant groups try to regroup from major losses suffered at the hands of U.S. and Iraqi forces.

The blast occurred about 1 p.m. as dozens of people were leaving a walled compound that includes a courthouse and the provincial governor's office in Baqouba, capital of Diyala province and a former al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

A car bomb across the street from the same compound killed at least 40 people in April.

It appeared that the latest attack was timed to maximize casualties since many people were leaving the compound because the government offices there were to close soon for the day.

A U.S. military statement said the dead included seven Iraqi police and eight civilians. Ten police were among the wounded. Iraqi authorities said 16 people were killed and 42 wounded.

"I was trying to leave the court when the explosion took place," said one witness, who was wounded by shrapnel but refused to give his name because of fears for his own safety.

"I heard some of the injured people saying they saw a woman wearing a black robe blow herself up."

Al-Qaida has been increasingly using women because their black, billowing abaya robes easily conceal explosives. Iraqi police often lack enough policewomen to search women carefully.

The number of female suicide attacks has risen from eight in 2007 to 21 so far this year, according to U.S. military figures. Eight of the attacks were in Diyala province.

AP

An Iraqi wounded civilians lays on the ground as man runs to cover himself, and an Iraqi soldier carries an injured child at the scene where a female suicide bomber detonated explosives in Baqouba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

Last year, U.S. soldiers regained control of Baqouba, which had been declared the capital of the Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qaida front organization. But the terror movement has been trying to regroup in the strategic Diyala province, which extends from the Iranian border to the eastern gates of Baghdad.

To the north, a roadside bomb Sunday apparently targeting a police patrol struck a civilian vehicle instead, killing four people, near Kirkuk, police reported. A suicide car bomber attacked a police checkpoint Sunday in the northwestern city of Mosul, wounding 14 people, including four policemen, provincial police said.

The violence occurred as U.S. and Iraqi authorities are trying to meet a July target date for completing a security agreement that would allow American troops to remain in the country after the U.N. mandate expires at the end of this year.

More goods entering Gaza under Israel-Hamas truce

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel allowed dozens of trucks to deliver food, diapers and clothes to the Gaza Strip on Sunday, boosting the flow of basic goods as part of a four-day-old truce with Hamas militants.

Further increases are expected if the quiet continues, offering the prospect of relief for Gazans after a year of Israeli sanctions against the Hamas regime.

The six-month deal is meant to end attacks that have killed more than 400 Palestinians and seven Israelis since the Islamic Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip a year ago, and pave the way toward wider-reaching agreements.

The truce has been holding since it began Thursday, evidence that both sides have an interest in the unsigned accord.

Hamas wants credit for ending the blockade and the legitimacy of reaching even an indirect agreement with Israel. Israel needs the halt in daily rocket attacks that disrupted the lives of thousands in the border area. Critics say it gives Hamas a chance to rearm.

On Sunday, 90 truckloads of supplies were transferred from Israeli to Palestinian vehicles at a Gaza crossing, up from between 60 and 70 before the truce went into effect, said military spokesman Gil Karie.

Fighting breaks out in northern Lebanon; 4 dead

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Fighting broke out in northern Lebanon on Sunday between pro- and anti-government factions leaving at least four people dead and 29 wounded, security and medical officials said.

Tensions have been on the rise for several days between government supporters in Tripoli's Bab el-Tabaneh district and the opposition in neighboring Jabal Mohsen, according to the security officials.

Machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades were used in the clashes, which started around 4 a.m., according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to the media.

Three civilians were killed along with a policeman who was on his way to work when he was hit with a bullet in the head, officials said.

The latest deaths raise the number of people killed in violence since last month to 87. More than 200 have been wounded.

A military official said the fighting had eased before noon Sunday and the army was sending reinforcements.

The area witnessed heavy fighting last month when pro-government gunmen and armed men loyal to the Hezbollah-led opposition clashed in different parts of the country.

After a meeting Sunday afternoon by local leaders in Tripoli, former Prime Minister Najib Mikati called on the Lebanese army to take control in the city.

Officials from the opposition Arab Democratic Party did not attend the meeting.

After sunset, security officials said sporadic fighting in the area resumed.

A divided village highlights a divided Europe

PYATSKUNY, Belarus (AP)—When Stanislava Subach wants to lay flowers on her husband's grave, she puts them in a plastic shopping bag and adds some stones for weight.

The package is then tossed over a metal fence and into what is now another country, to be picked up by former neighbors and placed on the grave.

The border between Belarus and Lithuania, two countries that were part of the Soviet Union, was once little more than a line on a map.

Now a fence runs along the border, representing a new version of the Iron Curtain that separated Eastern and Western Europe until communism collapsed. The autocratic regime of Belarus portrays this heavily policed border as the last line of defense against an encroaching West, represented by Lithuania, now a member of the European Union and NATO.

Here the fence cuts right through the village, separating Pyatskuny on the Belarus side from its Lithuanian half, Norviliskes. Villagers are cut off from the neighbors, the parish church and the cemetery, just a few steps but a whole world away.

AP

Lithuanian citizens , right, speak with their Belarusian relatives through a mesh fence, on the border between Belarus and Lithuania, in the Lithuanian village of Norviliskes, Friday, May 2, 2008.

People living across the fence can travel visa-free throughout Europe and work there. Those who stay in Norviliskes are paid by the EU to farm their land, and have money to fix up their homes and buy new clothes.

Those on the Belarusian side have little choice but to work on the local collective farm, and they depend on their gardens for food.

Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko, who permits no real economic or political reform, uses the fortified border much as the Soviet bloc once did: as a way to keep people in as much as keep them out.

The Lithuanian border police operate as any in Europe: guarding the frontier with patrol cars and video cameras, chiefly to catch smugglers and illegal immigrants. But on the Belarus side, armed guards patrol with dogs and are authorized to shoot, though they never have. Anyone trying to climb over the fence can be imprisoned for up to two years.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe opposition leader pulling out of election

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out of Zimbabwe's violence-wracked presidential runoff Sunday, declaring that the election was no longer credible and the loss of life among his supporters was simply too high. The announcement cleared the way for President Robert Mugabe to continue his 28-year rule, despite mounting condemnation from even loyal African allies that the former independence hero has become a despot who has bankrupted the country's once thriving economy. "We can't ask the people to cast their vote on June 27 when that vote will cost their lives. We will no longer participate in this violent sham of an election," Tsvangirai said.

UN atomic inspectors begin Syria mission

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—U.N. nuclear sleuths looking into allegations that Syria is hiding secret atomic activities expressed hope Sunday that a fact-gathering trip to Damascus will be the start of a thorough investigation. The International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors face a daunting task. Syrian officials are expected to place strict limits on where they go and what they see during their three-day visit. Still, IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen spoke optimistically of the mission's chances before boarding the flight to Damascus on Sunday, saying he and his two-man mission hoped to start to "establish the facts this evening."

Bolivian state backs greater autonomy

TARIJA, Bolivia (AP)—Natural gas-rich Tarija became the fourth Bolivian state to declare autonomy from the government of leftist President Evo Morales on Sunday when voters backed greater independence in a referendum, according to two unofficial private projections. Autonomy backers waved the state's flag and celebrated in Tarija's capital after pollsters released results showing the "yes" vote getting about 80 percent support. Electoral officials said there would be no final results until Wednesday. The referendum followed similar votes, with similar results, in three other lowland states. Morales has called the referenda illegal attempts to cripple his government.

Overdrive

2009 DODGE JOURNEY

More fun-to-go than fun-to-drive

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It was a good day to smell summer, the sweetness and funk of it. We drove into Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The aroma of honeysuckle mixed with the decay of road kill, a pungency at once inviting and offensive.

"Should I raise the windows?"

"No," said Mary Anne, my wife. "I love the smell of summer."

We are of a time when summer travel was done in cars equipped with "four-40 air conditioning," four windows down at 40 miles per hour. We were moving substantially faster than 40 on this trip in the 2009 Dodge Journey R/T wagon. But we let the air rush through open windows to dissipate the day's heat and humidity.

It was an impromptu ramble in a wagon that was more fun-to-go than fun-to-drive. The difference is more than semantic.

"Fun-to-drive" applies to a car such as the Infiniti G37 Journey coupe. It is the kind of car you drive simply for the joy of driving. It surpasses destination in entertainment and memory.

"Fun-to-go" vehicles, by comparison, are conveyances. They get you from one place to another without necessarily adding to or detracting from the enjoyment of the trip. Little is demanded of them other than that they be safe, convenient, comfortable, reliable, gifted with a few infotainment amenities such as satellite radio and video screens, and affordable.

The Dodge Journey, a mid-size wagon available with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive and offered in base SE, mid-level SXT, or upscale R/T trim, meets all fun-to-go demands. In the tested front-wheel-drive R/T version, equipped with a 3.5-liter, 235-horsepower V-6 engine, it even flirts with fun-to-drive. Acceleration is good. Handling is unobtrusive, which is a good thing. Unobtrusive handling beats discernibly bad handling every time.

And although we chose to drive with the Dodge Journey's power windows down, it was not because the wagon lacked air conditioning. When used, its automatic cooling and ventilation systems worked wonderfully well.

"What do you think?" I asked Mary Anne.

"About what?" she asked.

"The Journey," I said.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Dodge Journey R/T is not fancy, but it's pleasant.

She was puzzled, until I told her that I was referring to the Dodge wagon.

"Oh," she said. "I could like this one. It's OK. It has lots of stuff."

Translation: It's not fancy, but it's pleasant. It gets the job done. It has lots of cubby holes, including an optional "Flip 'n Stow" compartment underneath the front passenger's seat. You can put purses and briefcases in there. The wagon is a motorized closet.

Mary Anne said the Dodge Journey "would have been great" on bygone trips when we loaded our three children, now adults, into cars and wagons and hauled them all over the country. There is seating for five people in the Dodge Journey. Optional third-row seating can accommodate two people more.

I told her the Dodge Journey serves multiple lifestyles, including those of young families and empty nesters. Sometimes, I talk too much.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
With fuel prices cresting $4 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline, consumers might be tempted to go for the base Journey SE with the 2.4-liter, inline four-cylinder, 173-horsepower engine. Shoppers making that decision will get better fuel economy, but they'll also get a slug of a wagon. The four-cylinder engine is a tad weak for a vehicle weighing 3,800 pounds.

Ride, acceleration and handling: Ride, the way a vehicle feels on butts and backs, is good. Acceleration and handling are competent.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Pleasant, inoffensive.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Dodge Journey is a front-engine, passenger/utility wagon built on Chrysler's mid-size car platform, which also is used for the Dodge Avenger sedan. But the Journey is stretched nearly five inches longer to accommodate luggage and the optional third-row seat. It is available with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS
We drove the Journey R/T with the 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 235 horsepower at 6,400 revolutions per minute and 232 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 rpm. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
The standard Journey has seats for five people. With optional third-row seats, it can accommodate seven. Luggage capacity is 39.6 cubic feet with third-row seats in place and 68 cubic feet with those seats folded. The Journey can be equipped to tow a trailer weighing 3,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 20.5 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
We averaged 23 miles per gallon in highway travel — two vehicle occupants, light luggage, driving at posted highway speeds.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel antilock brakes, electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags.

PRICE
Base price for the 2009 Dodge Journey R/T with front-wheel drive is $25,920. Dealer's invoice price on the Journey R/T without options is $23,928. List price as tested is $29,040, including $2,495 in options and a $625 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $26,749.

This one comes with a three-year plan capping gasoline prices at $2.99 a gallon for Chrysler buyers. There is a 12,000-mile-per-year limit for each of the years, and the offer ends July 1. Prices sourced from Chrysler, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
An excellent value in family wagons. Compare with Mazda MX-7, Mitsubishi Outlander, Nissan Rogue.

YOUR WHEELS

Knowing your car's past life

By RALPH VARTABEDIAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

A new public database might protect American consumers, keep rolling wrecks off the highways and save lives in the process.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau is creating a free public database of vehicles declared a total loss, "or totaled," by insurers, allowing individuals to enter vehicle identification numbers, or VINs, to see if a set of wheels they want to buy has a hidden history.

The crime bureau, an organization of fraud busters funded by 1,000 of the nation's insurance companies, will begin the online service at the end of June. When it becomes operational, it can be found at www.nicb.org. Look for a link to the organization's VINcheck system.

Unlike commercial databases that sell similar information, the crime bureau's database will have access to the internal records of hundreds of the nation's largest insurance companies and will be offering the most comprehensive information so far available, said Frank Scafidi, a spokesman for the organization.

"The best part of this is that it's free," he said.

Over the past five years, nearly 12 million vehicles have been totaled by the insurance industry, most of them after collisions, but also after fires and floods.

A percentage of these vehicles —estimates from collision industry experts put it at about 30 percent—are recycled into the used car market. In California, at least 7 percent of all the vehicles on the road are salvaged from a "total" loss.

In the best case, these cars are carefully repaired and their histories are fully disclosed to future buyers. In the worst case, an unlicensed auto body shop performs a few superficial frame adjustments, installs a phony inoperable air bag, sprays on a nice coat of paint and then washes the title in the interstate used car auction market.

The system has long jeopardized the safety of not only the buyers of these vehicles with substandard repairs but everybody who shares the road with them. It also has put a cloud over honest body shops, which have a tough time competing against outfits that cut corners.

"Our goal is to provide as much information as possible to consumers—at no charge—to protect them against fraudulent used car sales and potentially deadly accidents from driving unsafe vehicles," said Robert M. Bryant, crime bureau president.

NICB began offering consumers access to VINs of troubled vehicles in October 2005, when it publicly posted the identities of about 300,000 vehicles and boats that had been caught in Hurricane Katrina. Those flooded vehicles were being recycled into the interstate used car market.

CRUISIN'

Belt poppin' Firebird

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I have a 2000 Pontiac Firebird Formula with an LS1 engine that I put headers on and did a few other modifications to, including an intake manifold, Hypertech chip and throttle body. Now, when I take it to the drags on Sunday, it wants to throw off the serpentine accessory belt. When this happens, I have no power steering! Can you help?—Bill, e-mail from Washington

A: Bill, your problem is easily cured. According to the many Internet boards that deal with GM Performance LS1- and LT1-powered cars (1993 through 2002 Firebird and Camaro), a company called Katech Inc. in Clinton Township, Michigan, has your cure. Katech has been involved with the Corvette C5-R race program since 1997.

Katech noticed during testing a bad spot in the rpm range where the serpentine accessory belt would want to jump off of the stock pulley. This finding led to the origin of Katech's solid adjustable belt tensioner, which lists for just $135. After installing this tensioner on their race engines, the belt problem disappeared. Check it out at www.katechengines.com, or call toll free at 1-866-528-3241. Let us know what happens.

■■■

Q: Greg, I enjoyed your article on the Kaiser Darrin, and I wanted to let you know there was a Darrin in Mount Carmel, Pa., when I was 12 back in 1958. I knew the person who owned it, as his son and I were good friends.

I remember the car because it was a two-door sports car and the doors slid into the fenders. The color was a bilious green/yellow. This one had the Willys Knight six-cylinder engine, but the car did not have wire wheels, just hubcaps.

I believe my friend, who now lives in Florida, still has the Darrin.—Frank M., Mt. Carmel, Pa.

A: Frank, I'd love to hear if your friend still has the Darrin. Maybe he'd send us a photo!

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

High fuel prices put brakes on indie band tours

By JASON DEAREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Steven Garcia pulled into a Houston gas station recently to fill up the old Dodge van his punk band uses on summer tours.

For months, the 23-year-old singer-guitarist had been budgeting money and booking show dates for Something Fierce's third tour - but skyrocketing gas prices have put the brakes on those plans.

"Once I ran the numbers it was a 'There's no (expletive) way' kind of moment," Garcia said. After much hand-wringing and grumbling from bookers who'd scheduled the band to play, Garcia canceled the tour.

Cramming into a rusty, creaky van and playing dive bars and house parties is a summer ritual for many young musicians and ambitious independent bands trying to get exposure, make a living and maybe build a solid future in music.

But like everything else that requires lengthy time on the road, filling up at $4 a gallon or more is taking a toll.

On the grass-roots level, cost has always been a concern for touring bands. But the nearly $2,500 in gas Garcia and his two bandmates would have had to pay just to make it to Vancouver, Canada, and back was too much to overcome.

"There's no way we can sustain a blow that big," he said, adding that the band is lucky to break even on a tour even when gas prices are more moderate.

If they're not canceling their tours, small acts are banding together, stuffing themselves into smaller vehicles or cutting short their tours.

"We do have two bands, The Revisions and The Estranged, out on tour together right now who have decided to share a van to save on gas costs," said Ken Cheppaikode, who operates Dirtnap Records, a Portland, Ore. independent label and record shop.

Cheppaikode said that after putting seven band members and their equipment into a van, they didn't have room for a roadie.

San Francisco's LoveLikeFire, a young band that counts on touring to make money and increase its fan base, now tries to get to the East Coast more often because the cities are closer to each other than out west.

"We often ask ourselves, is it worth driving so far when gas is almost $5 a gallon?" said Ann Yu, the band's singer. "We spend at least 150 bucks in gas to (get to) a show, when there is no guarantee that you'll make any of it back.

"It does screw up a lot of bands on the West Coast, 'cause ... there are very few cities to play in under seven-hour stretches, which can be costly," Yu said.

The tough choices being made at the bottom of the music industry food chain are just one more hit to the business already reeling from declining album sales because of digital music.

AP

From left, Ted Parker, Robert Kissinger, Dave Farrell and Ann Yu of the rock band LoveLikeFire pose by their touring van in San Francisco, Thursday, June 19, 2008.

Gary Bongiovanni, editor-in-chief of Pollstar, a trade publication covering the concert business, said the cost of fuel is affecting all levels, but the "people being most affected are new bands touring on the subsistence level. They don't have the popularity to charge higher ticket prices because of higher fuel costs."

Weathering soaring prices for more famous bands sometimes means just cutting back. "Like big acts using eight trucks instead of 12 this time around," Bongiovanni said.

Larger bands can also ask clubs for guaranteed money to play, meaning even if no one comes to the show, they'll still get paid. And with the higher gas prices, they're asking for more, said Romona Downey, who books bands at the Bottom of the Hill club in San Francisco, which is popular with midlevel touring bands.

Dirtnap's Cheppaikode said the independent bands on his label don't always have the leverage to ask for guaranteed money and therefore they swallow the extra costs. They also tend to play at very small venues that may not be able to offer guarantees.

"I always tell our bands to make sure they have lots of (merchandise) to sell on each tour," he said.

Still, the groups have to get there to sell their goods. So for the little guy, there's often no choice but to keep truckin' and gas prices just become another hurdle on an already difficult road to stardom.

"What else can you do?" Yu said. "It's just the battle scars of trying to get your music out there. And for every band that doesn't or can't do it, there are other ones that can and will."

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction:

1 ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life's moments.

2 ***What Happened***, by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: $27.95) The former press secretary claims the Bush administration deceived us on why we went to war.

3 ***Audition***, by Barbara Walters (Knopf: $29.95) The pioneering newswoman recalls her life and career.

4 ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets distilled.

5 ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) The quotidian meets the profound in this new batch of essays.

6 ***Just Who Will You Be?*** by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: $14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.

7 ***The Post-American World***, by Fareed Zakaria (W.W. Norton: $25.95) What the future holds with the United States fading as the world's leading economy.

8 ***The Man Who Loved China***, by Simon Winchester (Harper: $27.95) The story of scholar Joseph Needham, who explained China to the West.

9 ***Maps and Legends***, by Michael Chabon (McSweeney's: $24) The novelist defends his love of genre fiction, of comics, thrillers, horror and myth.

10 ***Quantum Wellness***, by Kathy Freston (Weinstein Books: $23.95) How small changes can make a big difference in your life.

Fiction

1 ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) A woman refuses to give in to alien invaders who take over the minds, but not the bodies, of humans.

2 ***The Enchantress of Florence***, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A European traveler arrives at the Mughal court with a beguiling tale to tell.

3 ***Bright Shiny Morning***, by James Frey (Harper: $26.95) Lives intertwine across Los Angeles.

4 ***Snuff***, by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday: $24.95) An aging porn star tries to cap her career with a movie of her having sex with 600 men in one day.

5 ***Careless in Red***, by Elizabeth George (Harper: $27.95) A detective mourning his late wife stumbles upon the body of a young man.

6 ***Unaccustomed Earth***, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: $25) Stories of U.S.-born children and their Bengali-born parents straddling cultures.

7 ***Chasing Harry Winston***, by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) Girlfriends vow to radically updo their lives.

8 ***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

9 ***The Shadow of Power***, by Steve Martini (William Morrow: $26.95) A scholar uncovers lost language in the Constitution that threatens the nation.

10 ***Blood Noir***, by Laurell K. Hamilton (Berkley: $25.95) A vampire hunter's favor for her lover awakens an ancient power struggle.

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Can the Martian arctic support extreme life?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bizarre microbes flourish in the most punishing environments on Earth from the bone-dry Atacama Desert in Chile to the boiling hot springs of Yellowstone National Park to the sunless sea bottom vents in the Pacific.

Could such exotic life emerge in the frigid arctic plains of Mars?

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft could soon find out. Since plopping down near the Martian north pole a month ago, the three-legged lander has been busy poking its long arm into the sticky soil and collecting scoopfuls to bake in a test oven and peer at under a microscope.

There hasn't been a eureka moment yet. But Phoenix turned up a promising lead last week when it uncovered what scientists believe are ice flecks in one trench and an icy layer in another.

Scientists hope experiments by the lander will reveal whether the ice has ever melted and whether there are any organic, or carbon-containing, compounds.

"We're looking for the basic ingredients that would allow life to prosper in this environment," chief scientist Peter Smith of the University of Arizona in Tucson has said in describing the mission's goal.

The discovery of extreme life forms, known as extremophiles, in unexpected nooks and crannies of the Earth in recent years has helped inform scientists in their search for extraterrestrial life.

"It's very suggestive that there are lots of worlds that may support life that at first glance may look like fourth-rate real estate," said Seth Shostak, an astronomer at the SETI Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

While the possibility for ET seems to grow with new extremophile discoveries on Earth, the truth is there's no evidence that life ever evolved on Mars or if it even exists today.

But if there were past or present life on the red planet—a big if—scientists speculate it would likely be similar to some extreme life on Earth—microscopic and hardy, capable of withstanding colder-than-Antarctica temperatures and low pressures.

"It's going to be microbes. It's not going to be a little green man," said Kenneth Stedman, a biologist with the Center for Life in Extreme Environments at Portland State University.

Under a microscope, extremophiles vary in size and shape. Some resemble miniature corkscrews while others are rods or irregular shapes. Scientists use a dye to distinguish the living ones from the dead.

The Phoenix mission has its limitations beside a shoestring budget of $420 million. It doesn't carry instruments capable of identifying fossils or living things. Rather, the lander has a set of ovens and a gas analyzer that will heat soil and ice and sniff the resulting vapors for life-friendly elements. Its wet chemistry lab will test the pH, or acidity, of the soil much like a gardener would. And its microscope will examine soil granules for minerals that may indicate past presence of water.

‘Get Smart’ gets audience with $39.2M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences still get Maxwell Smart. Steve Carell and Anne Hathaway’s “Get Smart,” the Warner Bros. big screen update of the 1960s spy sitcom, raked in $39.2 million to debut as the No. 1 weekend movie, according to studio estimates Sunday.

But movie-goers did not get Mike Myers’ “The Love Guru,” the weekend’s other new wide release. The Paramount Pictures comedy about a self-help mentor took in just $14 million to open at No. 4.

In limited release, “Kit Kittredge: An American Girl” opened strongly with $222,697 in five theaters, averaging $44,539 a cinema, compared with $10,012 in 3,911 theaters for “Get Smart.”

“Kit Kittredge,” released by Picturehouse and based on the popular line of American Girl dolls, stars Abigail Breslin as a 9-year-old aspiring newspaper reporter during the Depression. The film expands into wide release July 2.

The weekend’s No. 2 spot was a photo finish between DreamWorks Animation and Paramount’s “Kung Fu Panda” and Universal’s “The Incredible Hulk.”

In its third weekend, “Kung Fu Panda” pulled in $21.7 million, raising its domestic total to $155.6 million. “The Incredible Hulk” was right behind with $21.6 million in its second weekend to lift its total to $96.5 million.

“Panda” and “Hulk” were close enough that their rankings could change when final numbers are released Monday.

Hollywood’s summer surge continued, with total revenues climbing for the fourth straight weekend compared to last year. The top 12 movies took in $136.9 million, up nearly 10 percent from the same weekend in 2007, when Carell’s “Evan Almighty” opened at No. 1 with $31.2 million.

The industry is on track to beat the revenue record set last summer, when receipts topped $4 billion for the first time.

“While the country may be suffering with a so-called recession, people are finding movies a fairly inexpensive way to get their entertainment,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. “This proves the conventional wisdom that, during tough economic times, the movies flourish.”

In “Get Smart,” Carell recreates the bumbling Max Smart character created by Don Adams, with Hathaway playing the capable Agent 99 as the duo try to stop a plot to arm unstable governments with nuclear bombs. Dwayne Johnson co-stars as a superstar spy colleague.

Critics picked apart the movie for emphasizing action over the crisp verbal comedy of the TV show, but Warner Bros. figures that was a wise commercial move. While 60 percent of the audience was 25 or older, that still meant a sizable younger crowd that was more keen on the movie’s action, said Dan Fellman, the studio’s head of distribution.

“We were very pleased to have 40 percent under 25, because they did not grow up on the television show,” Fellman said. “The filmmakers did a great job in making that happen. They broadened the audience and brought it into a modern-day bent.”

Myers—who dreamed up the “Love Guru” character, co-wrote the script and was a producer on the movie—has been accustomed to blockbuster openings with the three “Shrek” flicks and his two “Austin Powers” spy sequels.

AP

Actors Steve Carell, left, and Anne Hathaway make an appearance at MTV Studio’s in Times Square for a taping of MTV’s “Total Request Live” show to promote their new movie “Get Smart”, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in New York.

1. **“Get Smart,”** $39.2 million.
2. **“Kung Fu Panda,”** $21.7 million.
3. **“The Incredible Hulk,”** $21.6 million.
4. **“The Love Guru,”** $14 million.
5. **“The Happening,”** $10 million.
6. **“Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,”** $8.4 million.
7. **“You Don’t Mess With the Zohan,”** $7.2 million.
8. **“Sex and the City,”** $6.5 million.
9. **“Iron Man,”** $4 million.
10. **“The Strangers,”** $1.9 million.

Prizes awarded in global music contest

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- More than $250,000 in prizes were announced Sunday after a weeklong competition that mingled features from “American Idol” with the world of classical music.

Top prizes of $50,000 in the Jose Iturbi International Music Competition were awarded to soprano Angela Meade, 30, a resident artist at Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts, and pianist Mariya Kim, 26, of the Ukraine and Germany. Kim also shared the $3,000 Spanish Prize.

The second annual contest, held at the University of California, Los Angeles, featured musicians from around the globe.

The competition’s sponsoring Jose Iturbi Foundation is named for the renowned concert pianist who appeared in several MGM musicals in the 1940s. It is dedicated to preserving Iturbi’s legacy and to fulfilling his desire to bring emerging classical pianists and vocalists to the public’s attention.

“The talent of this year’s competitors was staggering,” said Donelle Dadigan, the foundation’s president. “Interest in the final rounds was so intense that hundreds of people lined up in hope there would be last minute cancellations.”

The $3,000 People’s Choice award for piano was given to Chetan Tierra, 24, a student at the Cleveland Institute of Music. The People’s Choice award in the vocal competition was given to Rodell Rosel, 32, a native of the Philippines who has studied at Santa Monica College and UCLA.

In addition to their $50,000 in first-place prize money, vocalist Meade and pianist Kim will perform during a cruise aboard the Queen Mary 2 next April.

Seinfeld’s lawyers see humor, not defamation

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Seinfeld claims a cookbook author is cooking up some fancy semantics by calling him an actor rather than a comedian to minimize the humor in statements she says defamed her.

Lawyers for Seinfeld say Missy Chase Lapine’s lawyers resorted to the switch in words to describe Seinfeld when several weeks ago they filed a rewritten version of her lawsuit against him and his wife in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

“Jerry Seinfeld is an enormously wealthy and well-known actor,” Lapine’s revised lawsuit said. The original had called him a comedian.

Lapine, the author of “The Sneaky Chef: Simple Strategies for Hiding Healthy Foods in Kids’ Favorite Meals,” accused Seinfeld’s wife, Jessica Seinfeld, of plagiarizing her cookbook when in October she published her own, titled: “Deceptively Delicious: Simple Secrets to Get Your Kids Eating Good Food.”

During an appearance on CBS’ “Late Show with David Letterman,” Jerry Seinfeld said Lapine was accusing his wife of “vegetable plagiarism” and compared her to the three-name killers of John Lennon and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

“If you read history, many of the three-name people do become assassins,” Seinfeld said. “Mark David Chapman. And you know, James Earl Ray. So that’s my concern.”

His lawyers said in court papers filed late Tuesday: “No reasonable viewer could have thought that Seinfeld really meant that Lapine ... might become an `assassin’ simply because she has three names.”

Lapine’s lawyers have said Seinfeld, best known for the sitcom “Seinfeld,” used the Letterman appearance to begin a “malicious, premeditated and knowingly false and defamatory attack” on her.

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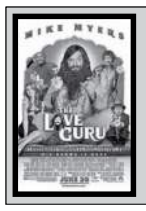
Get Smart
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
Sun - Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10
Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Maxwell Smart is on a mission to thwart the latest plot for world domination by the evil crime syndicate known as KAOS. When the headquarters of U.S. spy agency Control is attacked and the identities of its agents compromised, the Chief has no choice but to promote his ever-eager analyst Maxwell Smart, who has always dreamt of working in the field alongside stalwart superstar Agent 23. Smart is partnered instead with the lovely-but-lethal veteran Agent 99. Given little field experience and even less time, Smart--armed with nothing but a few spy-tech gadgets and his unbridled enthusiasm—must thwart the doomsday plans of KAOS head Siegfried.



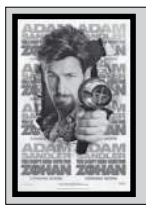
The Love Guru
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Guru Pitka was once an ordinary American child, until his family left him at the gates of an Indian ashram to be raised by the exhaulted Guru Tugginmypuddha. Growing up in the small fishing village of Harenmahkeester, Pitka was schooled in the inner secrets of spiritual attainment along with his friend and sole rival, Deepak Chopra. But now, Chopra is a massive celebrity in America, and Pitka is still playing second-fiddle without even an “Oprah” episode on his resume. Determined to share his unending insights into the nature of life and get famous to boot, Pitka responds to a fateful call for help from Jane Bullard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team.
★ ★ ★

Incredible Hulk
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:55
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00
Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk’s creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk’s own.

The Happening
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:05 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:05
Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG



You Don’t Mess with the Zohan
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25
Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13
● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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www.gohollywood.com

Amy Winehouse has emphysema

LONDON (AP)—Soul diva Amy Winehouse has damaged her lungs by smoking crack cocaine and cigarettes, her father said in an interview published Sunday.

The Sunday Mirror quoted Mitch Winehouse as saying that Amy has early stage emphysema and an irregular heartbeat, and has been warned that she will have to wear an oxygen mask unless she stops smoking drugs.

"The doctors have told her if she goes back to smoking drugs, it won't just ruin her voice, it will kill her," Mitch Winehouse was quoted as saying. "There are nodules around the chest and dark marks. She has 70 percent lung capacity."

Winehouse, 24, collapsed at her north London home Monday after signing autographs for a group of fans and was taken to a London hospital for tests. She remained there all week.

She is still scheduled to sing at a concert in London on Friday celebrating the 90th birthday of Nelson Mandela, the South African Nobel Prize-winner, and plans to take part in the Glastonbury music festival the following day.

Mitch Winehouse said it would be good for his daughter to perform.

"When she's been inactive work-wise then that's when the problems really start. The doctors have said that medically there isn't any reason why she can't do Glastonbury," the paper quoted him as saying.

He also pleaded with her drug-taking friends to stay away from her.

"What hope does she have if people are taking drugs around her," he said.

Chris Goodman, spokesman for Amy Winehouse, said "If that's what Mitch says, that's what he says. It sounds right."

Mitch Winehouse could not immediately be reached for comment.

AP

Jazz Soul diva Amy Winehouse, from England, has a drink while performing to 90,000 spectators on the main stage of the Rock in Rio Lisboa music festival at the Bela Vista Park, Lisboa Portugal in this May 30, 2008 file photo.

McConaughey pap claims surfers attacked him

AP

Actor Matthew McConaughey makess an appearance on MTV's Total Request Live at MTV Studios, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008 in New York.

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—A paparazzo trying to photograph Matthew McConaughey at the beach told police he was attacked by a mob of surfers who threw his camera in the ocean.

The 29-year-old photojournalist told sheriff's deputies that a large group of surfers near Paradise Cove in Malibu approached him and other paparazzi about 2 p.m. Saturday and demanded the group stop taking pictures and filming.

"There was apparently a fight, and the photographer gave a statement that he received injuries," Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said Sunday. Detectives are investigating, he said.

McConaughey was not involved in the attack, authorities said.

A call to McConaughey's publicist was not immediately returned.

The celebrity Web site TMZ.com posted a video Sunday showing about a dozen young men in swimsuits approaching what appears to be a group of paparazzi and yelling and swearing at them.

A scuffle breaks out after one of the photographers exchanges insults with the group and at first refuses their orders to leave.

"I'll give you a thousand bucks if you leave right now," one of the young men in swimsuits tells the photographers.

Another shoves a photographer filming the scene, and still another says, "We'll draw a line in the beach, and we'll fight for the beach. If you guys win, you can have the beach."

When one member of the group shouts at a photographer, "Get a ... real job," the photographer replies, "This is a real job. What do you do?"

The man replies: "I just drink beer and party."

Stars, relatives honor special-effects wizard Stan Winston

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Friends, relatives and show-business colleagues gathered Sunday to remember Oscar-winning special-effects maestro Stan Winston, the man responsible for bringing the dinosaurs of "Jurassic Park" and other iconic movie creatures to life.

Winston died at his home in Malibu surrounded by family June 15 after a seven-year struggle with multiple myeloma. He was 62.

Winston's son Matt recounted his father's last day as being filled with laughter, hugs, kisses, tears and music from the Beatles. At the end of the private memorial service at the Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary, Matt played the last song Winston heard before he died: the Beatles' "All My Loving."

Colleagues including "Iron Man" director Jon Favreau, Sigourney Weaver, Tom Arnold, Ernie Hudson and Robert Patrick joined Winston's family and friends to reminisce and listen to personal stories from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rabbi Judith Halevy, brother Ronny Winston, uncle Mitchell Karlan, son-in-law Erich Litoff, and directors James Cameron and Steven Spielberg.

"What Stan did is that he took our dreams - he took all of our dreams - and he blended them with his own dreams," Spielberg told mourners in attendance. "He then workshopped those dreams with pencil, clay and later years on the computer. He would basically give life to all of our ideas. He would make them come to life."

In a career spanning four decades, Winston created some of the most memorable visual effects in cinematic history. He helped bring the dinosaurs from "Jurassic Park," the extraterrestrials from "Aliens," the robots from "Terminator" and even "Edward Scissorhands" to the big screen. He was a pioneer in merging real-world effects with computer-generated imagery.

Winston won visual effects Oscars for 1986's "Aliens," 1992's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and 1993's "Jurassic Park." He also won a makeup Oscar for 1992's "Batman Returns." He was nominated for his work on "Heartbeeps," "Predator," "Edward Scissorhands," "Batman Returns," "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and "A.I."

Comedian George Carlin dead at age 71

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A publicist for George Carlin says the legendary comedian has died of heart failure at a hospital in Santa Monica, Calif.

Jeff Abraham says Carlin went into St. John's Health Center on Sunday afternoon, complaining of chest pain. Carlin died at 5:55 p.m. PDT. He was 71.

Carlin, who had a history of heart trouble, performed as recently as last weekend at the Orleans Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas. It was announced Tuesday that Carlin was being awarded the 11th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

The dean of counterculture comedians, Carlin constantly pushed the envelop with his jokes, particularly with a routine called "The Seven Words You Can Never Say On TV."

Daughter-in-law's language can be a bridge, not a barrier

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in response to "The In-Laws in New Jersey" (April 26), who think their daughter-in-law is rude for speaking a foreign language to her parents and children in front of them. I'm disappointed you didn't point out the opportunity Carmella has to enrich the lives of her husband's parents.

The United States is one of the only first-world nations that does not require its children to learn more than one language, which has left many people feeling that anyone not speaking English is being "rude." Bilingual people can tell you that the pattern of speaking with family in the native language is deeply ingrained and is not easily broken. It isn't intended to exclude others. The in-laws are not out of line to ask Carmella to translate what she's saying, but they could use it as a chance to be a part of their grandchildren's language development.

I come from a bilingual family. My husband is monolingual. We're aware that not speaking English can make him feel isolated, so we do our best to translate to keep him in the loop. This approach has enabled him to start learning the language—and he's coming along nicely. Multilingualism is an asset to society—not a flaw.

BILINGUAL AND PROUD, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

DEAR BILINGUAL: Thank you for the input. The "In-laws" had let Carmella know the private conversations made them uncomfortable, and I felt a little more sensitivity to their feelings was in order. However, the responses that have poured in offer varied perspectives. Read on for a sample:

DEAR ABBY: I doubt Carmella was speaking the foreign language to be rude. She may not even realize she's doing it. When you have spoken one language to your parents all your life, switching to another is awkward and unnatural. I speak Taiwanese to my parents, but English to all my friends. Your brain automatically changes languages without you even thinking about it. Carmella's in-laws should know she probably isn't doing it to exclude them, but is only doing something that is second nature.

WAN-JEN IN UTAH

DEAR ABBY: I am a white, English-speaking, middle-aged woman living in a multiethnic, multi-language community. I can tell you firsthand that learning a few words in another language goes a long way toward community and family harmony. May I suggest the New Jersey in-laws show some polite interest and ask Carmella for help with basic greetings and courtesy terms such as "please," "thank you" and "How are you?" Perhaps they could also learn "I love you" in her language to share with their grandchildren.

JANET IN IDAHO

DEAR ABBY: I am French, married to an Englishman who does not speak French. For the last 10 years, I have spoken only French to my children. When others are present, I always let them know I am not being impolite or trying to keep them out of the conversation. My kids are perfectly bilingual now, and in order to achieve such a goal you must be consistent. To me, preserving the richness of two cultures is more important than offending someone. But children should know they can translate for other people in the room when appropriate.

SIMONE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: Having the ability to speak some English doesn't mean someone is always comfortable doing it at length or can express what they truly mean. Some colloquialisms, jokes and terms of endearment do not translate. If the in-laws accept that it's not all about them, they will soon realize that "family" can cross language barriers.

HAPPY THE WAY THINGS ARE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

AHHH, WHAT A DAY!
UP AT DAWN! FRESH AIR! TRANQUILITY! NO DEMANDS, NO PHONES, NO PRESSURE!
THE WHOLE DAY IS ONE'S OWN! ISN'T THIS GREAT? ISN'T THIS THE LIFE?
SPACEMAN SPIFF, A PRISONER ON THE ZOG SLAVE GALLEY, PLANS HIS DARING OVERBOARD ESCAPE!
AHH, WHAT A DAY!
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6/24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL, THAT WAS AGGRAVATING
I GOT ONE OF THOSE SHOPPING CARTS WITH A WEIRD WHEEL
I HAD TO SHOP IN CIRCLES FOR AN HOUR
I HOPE IT WAS IN THE DONUT AISLE
JIM DAVIS 6-24
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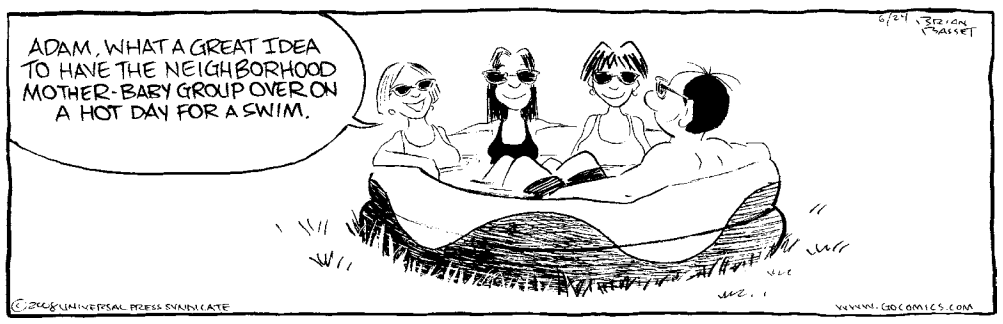
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, WHAT A GREAT IDEA TO HAVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD MOTHER-BABY GROUP OVER ON A HOT DAY FOR A SWIM.
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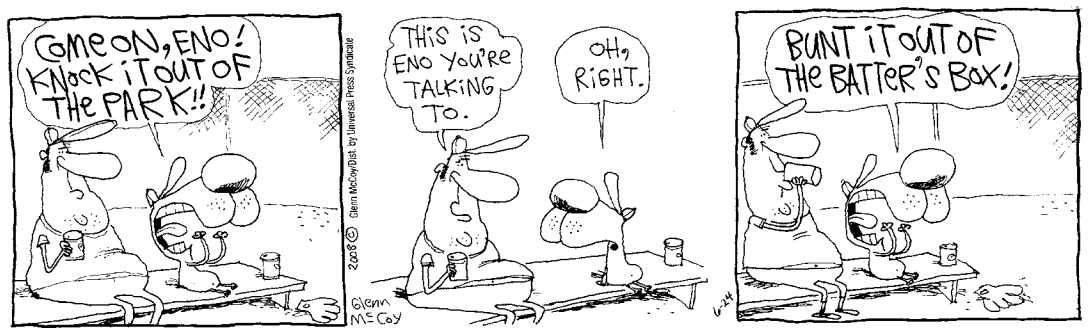
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


COME ON, ENO! KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK!!
THIS IS ENO YOU'RE TALKING TO.
OH, RIGHT.
BUNT IT OUT OF THE BATTER'S BOX!
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Glenn McCoy
6/24

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

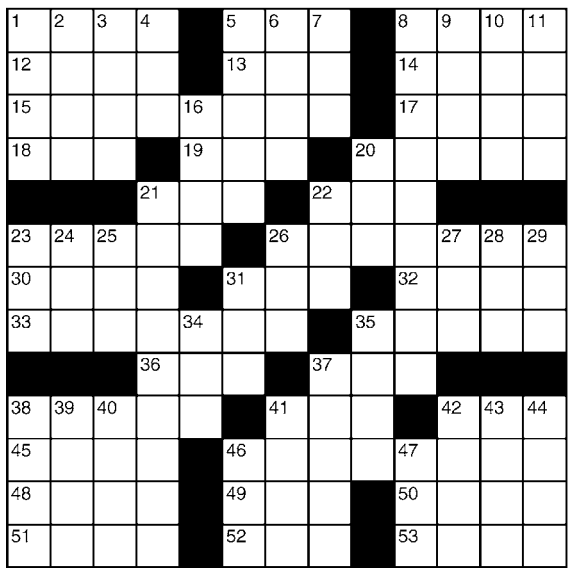
ACROSS
1 Temperate
5 The girl
8 Masticate
12 Smell
13 Cornfield cry
14 Visibility hindrance
15 One may be imaginary
17 Green land
18 Sun Yat- —
19 Exist
20 Toss out
21 Snoop
22 Tibetan bovine
23 Examine ore
26 Start of a Jewish month
30 Use a spatula
31 Clear the tables
32 Emanation
33 What compositors do
35 Knapsack part
36 Carpet
37 Apiary denizen
38 Crabby one
41 Feathery neckpiece
42 Erstwhile acorn
45 Relaxing exercise
46 Perfect partner
48 Shed
49 Omelet need
50 "Hey, sailor!"
51 Eyelid woe
52 Blond shade
53 Pirates' drinks

DOWN
1 Swabs the deck
2 Between jobs
3 Bank transaction
4 Parched
5 Frightening
6 Despise
7 Lamb's mama
8 Coup for Kasparov
9 Mustache makeup
10 Pound of poetry
11 Sob
16 Creche figure
20 Witnessed
21 Pen name?
22 "Of course"
23 Sternward
24 Crafty
25 Taste the Tokay
26 Eccentric
27 "— Town"
28 — pro nobis
29 Siesta
31 Plead
34 Dine
35 Cachet
37 Tree part
38 Workout sites
39 Source
40 Pre-swan
41 Marshy areas
42 Hawaiian island
43 Teensy bit
44 Jailer's janglers
46 Vast expanse
47 Scratch

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	H	E			P	E	R		W	O	M	B
R	O	S	A		A	W	E		H	I	R	E
E	B	A	N		R	E	V		E	L	S	E
Y	O	U	T	H		R	U	H	R			
			E	B	B		E	R	E	C	T	S
J	E	A	L	O	U	S		S	T	O	A	T
O	R	S	O		G	O	D		H	A	T	E
U	N	A	P	T		B	A	R	E	X	A	M
R	E	P	E	A	T		M	A	D			
			P	R	O	W		P	E	A	K	S
I	D	O	L		A	I	L		E	R	I	E
D	I	V	A		D	N	A		R	I	L	E
S	P	A	Y		Y	E	W			A	N	D

Yesterday's answer 6-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sherry Stringfield, 41; Joe Penny, 52; Jeff Beck, 64; Michele Lee, 66

Happy Birthday: You'll be steady, ready and able to get things done this year. There's plenty to gain if you are committed to reaching your goals. Your uniqueness will help you build momentum and gather interest in what you are doing. This is a time of action, precision and accomplishment. Your numbers are 7, 15, 22, 31, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Things may not run smoothly but, if you let it throw you off your game, you will miss out. Focus on being your best by exercising and eating smart. Challenge yourself to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There is much to do: initially to help others and ultimately, to aid yourself. The gains will surpass your expectations and help you with your personal and professional position. This is the time to open up not shut down. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone may try to trick you into something you probably shouldn't do. Be creative and stay one step ahead of whoever you deal with. Emotional matters must be kept at arm's length if you want to be productive. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make this a do-or-die day when it comes to your accomplishments. An unusual job opportunity may not initially appear to be your cup of tea but, once you get the lowdown, it will have greater appeal. Open your mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotions and money matters don't mix well. You have to keep your head on straight if you don't want to be taken by someone who is playing on your weakness. Be confident and take a powerful stance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be pushed and pulled by some important professional and personal decisions you have to make. Put love first today and prepare to make a few concessions and changes. You will get what you want and be praised for your diplomacy. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): This is not the day to show your lazy Libran side. Do your best and don't cut corners because someone important will be watching. Give your work that unique, sophisticated twist. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let the little things get to you when there is so much more ahead of you. Focus on change, making things work and turning your hard work and plans into something lucrative. Being secretive is fine but you need to share your goals. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you avoid situations you will be cornered and forced to deal with matters, so face your problems and express exactly how you feel. The longer you let things fester, the worse your predicament will become. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will turn heads if you make moves that no one expects of you. Catching people off guard will help you win the favors you need to get something you are trying to accomplish moving. A love connection can be made or a stronger bond developed. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't take sides or have arguments you cannot win. Be congenial and get along with everyone. A creative hobby will help you blow off steam and give you a greater sense of pride. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will be emotional but that never hurts when you are dealing with someone you love, especially if you want to get your point across. Now is a great time to nurture your personal relationships with children, parents, your lover or even a good friend. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intelligent and intuitive. You are giving when you feel you are being dealt with fairly. You judge others and compare them to yourself.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					3	9	4	5
	9				4			8
					8			1
					7	1	8	9
8	7	1	5					
1			2					
5			1				7	
7	6	4	3					

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	3	5	4	8	6	7	1
7	1	4	6	3	9	2	8	5
8	6	5	7	1	2	3	9	4
4	3	7	9	8	6	1	5	2
1	8	6	2	5	4	9	3	7
5	2	9	3	7	1	4	6	8
6	7	2	4	9	5	8	1	3
9	5	8	1	2	3	7	4	6
3	4	1	8	6	7	5	2	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TEQUILA **Solution: 7 letters**

F	C	S	E	C	I	U	J	S	F	I	E	L	D	S
S	E	L	P	P	A	E	N	I	P	B	I	T	E	P
O	L	R	A	A	Y	B	E	(L)	(I)	(M)	(E)	P	L	R
C	E	L	M	E	N	G	R	V	I	Y	Y	A	C	O
I	B	G	U	E	A	I	S	E	L	T	T	O	B	O
X	R	G	A	T	N	R	S	R	W	I	E	R	J	F
E	A	S	I	T	E	T	O	H	N	I	S	R	A	B
M	T	R	I	E	N	S	A	U	O	O	N	D	L	P
W	E	L	H	N	U	I	M	T	Q	T	R	G	I	R
H	U	C	A	N	I	R	V	U	I	I	R	L	S	E
I	L	H	R	S	O	T	A	B	N	O	L	A	C	M
T	B	I	R	W	K	L	R	K	V	E	N	S	O	I
E	S	I	O	R	I	A	I	A	M	S	E	S	U	U
E	T	S	A	T	N	N	L	O	M	D	E	X	I	M
S	L	D	Y	D	G	F	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C

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Bars, Bite, Blue, Bottles, Brand, Brewing, Celebrate, Cheers, Cinnamon, Dark, Drinking, Fermentation, Fields, Flavor, Glass, Heritage, Jalisco, Juices, Lemon, Lime, Liquor, Liter, Maguey, Martinis, Mexico, Mixed, Party, Pineapples, Platinum, Premium, Proof, Quality, Salt, Shot, Silver, Spanish, Stir, Sunrise, Taste, Types, Uses, Vintage, White, Worm

Yesterday's Answer: Slippahs

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
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Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Cink finally closes 1 out, wins Travelers Championship

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Stewart Cink had a reputation as a good golfer who just couldn't finish off a tournament.

His collapse during the fourth round of the PODS Championship in March left him with just one victory in the nine career events where he had the lead going into the last day.

On Sunday, he put that behind him, holding off a late charges from Tommy Armour III and defending champion Hunter Mahan to win the Travelers Championship by a stroke. With the victory, Cink was projected to go to a career-high No. 6 in the world ranking.

Cink shot a 3-under 67—following rounds of 66, 64 and 65—to finish at 18 under for his fifth career victory and first since 2004. Armour (65) and Mahan (65) tied for second.

Cink earned his first career win here as a rookie, and came into the day with a two-stroke lead over Heath Slocum.

"I know there has been some talk that I have not been a closer," Cink said. "They had every right to say that, because I felt the same way myself. So I felt that I had something to prove to myself."

He finished with a career-best 262 over the four rounds, five shots better than his 1997 total of 267. It was his first win after six top-10 finishes this year, earning him $1.08 million. It also pushed him to third place in the FedEx Cup standings behind Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, and into second place in the U.S. Ryder Cup standings.

For a while, though, it looked as though the tournament was heading for a three-way playoff.

Leading by a stroke, Cink hit a 365-yard tee shot on the 18th into the crowd to the right, and his approach went just over the green. But he recovered nicely, getting up and down from just under 2 feet to save par.

"To stand over that last putt, even though it was only 2 feet long, and to knock it in the middle, it was a great feeling," he said.

Armour, who at 48 was looking to become the oldest winner on the PGA Tour this season, shot a bogey-free 65. He put his approach on 17 about 4 feet from the pin and made birdie. But he missed a 37-foot putt on 18 that would have given him a share of the lead.

Mahan, looking to become the first repeat champion here since Mickelson in 2002, had birdies on his final two holes to make it interesting. He hit an 18-foot putt on the 17th, then hit a wedge shot 3 feet from the pin on 18.

AP

Stewart Cink kisses the winner's trophy after he won the Travelers Championship golf tournament at the tPC River Highlands golf course in Cromwell,, Conn., Sunday, June 22, 2008.

Mahan earned his first tour victory here a year ago, making a birdie on the first playoff hole to capture the title over journeyman Jay Williamson. Mahan tied for second behind J.J. Henry in 2006.

"I played really well," he said. "I had a chance to win on the back nine on Sunday, so I couldn't be more happy."

Slocum was on Cink's heels for most of the round. But Cink matched him birdie for birdie on Nos. 6, 9, 13 and 15.

Cink hit the green on 16 and made par. Slocum came up short, pitched his ball well right and ended with a bogey that knocked him two shots behind, where he finished.

"I positioned myself nicely. I just didn't hit a few more quality shots," Slocum said. "Obviously, I needed to hole a few more putts."

Cink played tentatively for most of the front nine. He three-putted on the fourth hole, dropping into a tie with Vijay Singh and Armour. He regained sole possession of the lead on the ninth, sinking a 21-foot downhill putt for birdie. His birdie on the 13th hole kept him one shot up.

Singh was in contention until he bogeyed the par-5 13th, which he had birdied the previous three days. He hit his tee shot right and into the water. He finished in fifth place at 14 under.

"I had chances on the front nine, but I did not capitalize," he said.

After three consecutive days of calm winds and soft greens, conditions deteriorated on Sunday. In an effort to avoid predicted thunderstorms, tournament officials moved the start up to 7:30 a.m. and had the golfers going in threesomes off the first and 10th tees.

The winds began picking up and play was suspended for just over an hour when thunder began rumbling over the course shortly before 1 p.m.

"Sometimes when you have to wait a little bit, you have to go through a few extra trials, it seems a little bit sweeter," Cink said. "This time, the way that I was able to do it—I had the lead all weekend, we had to endure a rain delay and guys were firing left and right. I stayed a step ahead, just enough. I think that makes it even more sweet."

Is five-time champ Federer underdog at Wimbledon?

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Bjorn Borg and Novak Djokovic say Roger Federer's reign at Wimbledon is in jeopardy. Pete Sampras and Rafael Nadal say Federer remains the man to beat on grass.

"It's maybe a time where some people talk a little bit too much," Federer said Sunday, 24 hours before playing the first Centre Court match as he begins his pursuit of a sixth consecutive Wimbledon title.

That would equal the record established by William Renshaw, the champion in 1881-86. Since the early 1900s, Federer and Borg (1976-80) are the only men to win Wimbledon five times in a row. Federer's 59-match winning streak on grass is the longest in the 40-year Open era.

Yet there has been plenty of debate the past two weeks regarding whether Federer is this year's favorite. It seems everyone but old Willie Renshaw has weighed in on the subject.

Nobody disputes the 26-year-old Federer has struggled in recent months. For only the second time since early 2003, he has been beaten at two consecutive major tournaments. He has lost eight matches this year, only one less than in all of 2007. And he endured his most lopsided Grand Slam defeat in the French Open final two weeks ago, winning only four games against Nadal.

Ranked No. 1 since February 2004, Federer blames his slow start this year on a winter bout with mononucleosis and says he feels fine now. He showed no signs of slippage when he moved to grass the week after the loss in Paris, winning a tournament in Germany without losing his serve, much less a set.

That was against a weak field, however, and the title failed to squelch speculation Federer will soon be an ex-champion in gentlemen's singles at the All England Club.

"I got the question, `Can Roger win Wimbledon?'" said Andy Roddick, who lost to Federer in the 2004 and 2005 finals. "I found that to be one of the most ridiculous questions I've ever answered in my life. You know, he has won it five times. I'm not sure what else he has to do."

Tell it to Borg. After erroneously predicting Federer would give Nadal a tough test in the French Open final, Borg now says Nadal and Djokovic are more likely to win Wimbledon than Federer.

Djokovic likes the sound of that. He won his first major title at the Australian Open after beating Federer in the semifinals—the first sign of a narrowing gap atop the rankings.

Djokovic, ranked third, believes Federer will suffer from a French Open hangover.

"I think he's a little bit shaken with that loss, and mentally he has been struggling in the last couple of months," Djokovic said. "New names are coming, fresh, talented players who believe more they can win against him, and I am one of them. Suddenly he is worried a little bit."

Federer's biggest nemesis disagrees. The No. 2-ranked Nadal is 11-6 against Federer, was runner-up at Wimbledon the past two years and pushed Federer to five sets in the 2007 final.

But Nadal scoffed at the notion Federer is more vulnerable on grass this year.

"Yes, a lot," Nadal said facetiously. "He didn't lose a set in Halle—59 matches without losing. Come on."

In the wake of the French Open, there was debate about the decline of Federer even in Brazil, where Sampras competed in a senior tournament.

"As great as Roger is, he's going to have his losses and his bad days," Sampras said. "When push comes to shove in the majors, he's still the guy that's most likely to win them. He has lost a couple, and if anything that'll do him some good. It'll get him going and fired up. He'll be just fine."

Federer has won 12 Grand Slam championships, two shy of Sampras' record. With five Wimbledon titles, Federer has a chance to match the record of seven shared by Sampras and Renshaw.

There's little debate the competition for Federer is stiffer at Wimbledon than when he began his reign in 2003. The lawn courts have become slower, which gives baseliners a fighting chance, and the precocious Nadal and Djokovic have adapted to grass more quickly than many young players.

The big-serving Roddick, once Federer's most formidable obstacle at Wimbledon, has been reduced to an afterthought in discussions about the title contenders.

How does Federer size up the field?

"I feel like I'm the big favorite, obviously," he said. "It's a huge year for me, going for my sixth. Getting the fifth one was a dream come true. It's something that's going to be very hard to match, I think, in the future. I hope I can also match Pete's record of seven Wimbledons here. That's what my focus is."

Federer faces the toughest draw of the top contenders, with potential first-week opponents including big-serving Robin Soderling, 2007 quarterfinalist Tomas Berdych and 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt.

On Monday, Federer plays Dominik Hrbaty. Following them on Centre Court will be top-ranked Ana Ivanovic, the French Open champion, against Rossana de Los Rios. Other show-court matches include Djokovic against Michael Berrer, and two-time champion Serena Williams against French Open quarterfinalist Kaia Kanepi.

Defending women's champion Venus Williams begins a bid for her fifth Wimbledon title Tuesday against wild card Naomi Cavaday of Britain.

Federer should have no trouble finding his footing against Hrbaty, whose record at Wimbledon is 4-11. It's worth mentioning again that since 2003, Federer's opponents are 0-59 against him on grass.

"The game changes a whole lot when you play on grass," Federer said. "It really favors my game because of my ability to move, the way I defend, the way I use my shot selection. I haven't lost in such a long time on grass. Obviously my confidence is really, really high.

"Then again, other players are around to really challenge me. That only motivates me. So it should be an interesting Wimbledon this year."

That's one point on which everyone can agree.

Dempster gets 9th win as Cubs sweep rival White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)— Ryan Dempster won his ninth straight this season at Wrigley Field and Eric Patterson and Aramis Ramirez homered in the same inning for the Chicago Cubs, who beat the crosstown rival White Sox 7-1 to finish a three-game sweep Sunday.

The Cubs, the owners of the best record in the majors (48-28), won their 14th straight home game to go 32-8 at Wrigley Field this season.

Dempster (9-2), who moved from closer back to starter this season, allowed 10 hits and a run in eight-plus innings, leaving after giving up back-to-back singles in the ninth. He walked one and struck out four.

Braves 8, Mariners 3

At Atlanta, Mark Teixeira homered three times, connecting from both sides of the plate to lead Atlanta over Seattle.

Teixeira hit solo drives batting left-handed in the second and fourth innings, and a two-run shot from the right side in the seventh for his 13th homer of the season. It was his second career three-homer game and the first for an Atlanta player at Turner Field.

Tim Hudson (8-5) allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings to lower his ERA to 2.96 and finally win an interleague game with Atlanta.

Red Sox 5, Cardinals 3, 13 innings

At Boston, Kevin Youkilis hit a two-run home run off of Mike Parisi in the bottom of the 13th inning to lift Boston over St. Louis.

Mike Lowell led off the inning with a single off Parisi (0-3) before Youkilis hit Parisi's 3-1 offering over the left-field wall. It was Youkilis's second homer of the game.

Angels 3, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Jered Weaver held Philadelphia in check into the sixth inning, Casey Kotchman homered and Los Angeles beat the Phillies to complete a three-game sweep.

Weaver (7-7) allowed one run and four hits in 5 1-3 innings for the AL West-leading Angels, who have won eight of their last nine road games and are a major league-best 24-12 on the road this season.

Yankees 4, Reds 1

At New York, Andy Pettitte put the Yankees back on track, running his shutout streak to 19 innings and helping New York avoid a three-game sweep with a victory over Cincinnati.

Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 601st home run, but the Reds are still looking for their first three-game road sweep since last July at Atlanta.

Jason Giambi had a two-run double and Robinson Cano snapped a scoreless tie with a sacrifice fly in the fifth, sending the Yankees to their 13th win in 18 games. They lost reliever Kyle Farnsworth to injury, however, when he tried to barehand Brandon Phillips' infield single in the eighth.

Royals 11, Giants 10

At Kansas City, Missouri, Mike Aviles had three RBIs and Joey Gathright drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, capping an eight-run comeback that gave Kansas City a thrilling win over San Francisco.

Seven different Royals drove in runs, including a pair of RBIS from David DeJesus, as Kansas City belted out 14 hits. The comeback matched the second-best in Royals history, after a nine-run rally on June 15, 1979, at Milwaukee.

Dodgers 4, Indians 3

At Los Angeles, Russell Martin capped a four-run first inning with a two-run homer and the Dodgers beat Cleveland to avoid a three-game sweep in the first series between the teams at Chavez Ravine.

Chad Billingsley (6-7) allowed three runs and eight hits in five innings for the Dodgers, throwing 108 pitches.

Astros 3, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Lee hit a go-ahead two-run homer and Brandon Backe pitched into the seventh inning to stop a personal three-game losing streak, helping Houston beat Tampa Bay.

The Astros went ahead on Lee's two-out shot off Scott Kazmir (6-3) in the sixth, and Backe and the bullpen made the 3-2 lead stand up. Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 22 opportunities.

Twins 5, Diamondbacks 3

At Minneapolis, Brian Buscher had two hits and drove in two runs, helping Minnesota beat struggling Brandon Webb and Arizona.

AP

Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Ryan Dempster throws to first after Chicago White Sox's Carlos Quentin hit a ground ball during the third inning of an interleague baseball game Sunday, June 22, 2008 in Chicago.

Buscher is hitting .353 with 12 RBIs and six runs scored in 10 starts since he was called up. The Twins are 7-3 in those games.

Livan Hernandez (8-4) gave up three runs, one earned, and nine hits with five strikeouts in seven innings for the Twins, who swept the Diamondbacks and have won six in a row, their longest winning streak since July 2006.

Blue Jays 8, Pirates 5

At Pittsburgh, Cito Gaston earned his first win Toronto manager in 11 years, getting home runs from Scott Rolen and Adam Lind in a victory over Pittsburgh.

Lyle Overbay and Vernon Wells had two RBIs apiece for Toronto, which avoided a sweep and the third 0-6 road trip in franchise history. Joe Inglett went 3-for-4 and Marco Scutaro scored three runs.

Gaston, who managed the Blue Jays from 1989-97 and won two World Series titles, took over again Friday when the club fired John Gibbons.

Mets 3, Rockies 1

At Denver, Mike Pelfrey carried a shutout into the sixth inning, Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer and New York beat Colorado to wrap up a winning road trip under interim manager Jerry Manuel.

He took over for the fired Willie Randolph after the Mets beat the Los Angeles Angels to open a six-game trip last Monday. New York lost in Manuel's debut on the bench, but rebounded to beat the Angels and take two of three from the Rockies.

Athletics 7, Marlins 1

At Oakland, California, Justin Duchscherer is making an impressive bid for a spot in the All-Star game as Oakland trounced Florida.

Duchscherer bounced back from a first-inning home run to win his fourth straight start, Emil Brown hit a two-run single and Oakland won the rubber game against Florida.

Carlos Gonzalez stole home in the sixth on Oakland's third double-steal of the season and the team's second time stealing home. Bobby Crosby also did it May 11 at Texas.

Rangers 5, Nationals 3

At Washington, Frank Catalanotto delivered a tiebreaking, pinch-hit single in the eighth inning, and Texas beat Washington.

Vicente Padilla (10-3) gave up three runs and five hits over seven innings to win for the eighth time in nine decisions since April 27. He struck out five and walked two, but wasn't in line for the win until the Rangers put together a rally in the eighth.

Brewers 7, Orioles 3

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit two home runs, Corey Hart and Bill Hall also went deep and the Milwaukee beat Baltimore for its sixth win in seven games.

Manny Parra (7-2) struggled through five innings but won his fifth consecutive start. He helped himself get out of trouble by inducing three double plays.

The Brewers used four relievers in the final four innings, with closer Salomon Torres getting the final two outs on the Orioles' fifth double play for his 12th save in 14 chances.

Tigers 5, Padres 3

At San Diego, Magglio Ordonez hit a two-run homer, Justin Verlander won his first road game of the season and Detroit beat San Diego in the rubber game of a three-game series.

Winless in six road starts this season, Verlander (4-9) improved to 8-0 in his career in interleague play. He struck out a season-high 10 while pitching around five walks, and gave up five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

No more Pacman? Jones wants to drop nickname

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—No more "Pacman"?

That would be the preference of Adam Jones, the suspended Dallas Cowboys cornerback who has been known by the nickname throughout his life. He'd like to be called by his given name and make "Pacman" a thing of the past.

"There's really just a lot of negativity behind it," Jones said. "It's just time for a change, man. I'm doing everything to make sure that I'm all right as a person, mentally and emotionally."

Jones missed all the 2007 season with the Tennessee Titans while serving his NFL suspension that has not been completed lifted. The Cowboys acquired Jones from the Titans for draft picks in April.

While he was on the practice field with the Cowboys the last three weeks, Jones might have to wait until the week before Dallas' Sept. 7 opener to find out if commissioner Roger Goodell will let him play during the regular season.

After speaking to about 60 kids at a basketball camp hosted by Dallas Mavericks forward Brandon Bass on Saturday, Jones expressed his desire to drop his nickname.

The kids at the camp called out "Pacman Jones! Pacman Jones!" after he spoke to them. But he signed autographs with his given name, not the nickname given to him by his mother when he was an infant.

"My mom is going to call me 'Pacman.' That is what it is. I can't change that," Jones said. "I'm not saying that my teammates won't call me 'Pacman' on the field. But for the most part, I want to be Adam or Mr. Jones."

Rosters handed out by the Cowboys during their mandatory minicamp last week listed No. 21 as "Pacman Jones," based on what he had initially told team officials.

When Jones conducted his only extensive interview at the Cowboys' facility June 4, the first week he was cleared by Goodell to practice with the team, he gave no indication that he planned to forsake his nickname.

Jones had told reporters that he'd talk Thursday after the end of minicamp, the last organized on-field sessions for Cowboys until they report July 24 to training camp in Oxnard, Calif. But there was no media access after coach Wade Phillips canceled the final scheduled practice and replaced it with family day activities.

Jones was suspended in April 2007 following an accumulation of arrests and legal problems, including his connection to a shooting at a Las Vegas strip club. He's been arrested six times and involved in 12 incidents requiring police intervention since being drafted in the first round by Tennessee in 2005.

Meanwhile, Jone's name has recently appeared in the news. A woman involved in the Las Vegas brawl was found dead last week behind a building in the Bronx, a borough of New York City. Officers found her unresponsive with injuries consistent with a fall.

The woman, 26-year-old Sadia Morrison, had pleaded no contest to a felony battery charge last year in Las Vegas. Jones pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge in Las Vegas after police said he incited the melee.

Back in Tennessee, a foreclosure sale was published involving Jones' home and 30 acres in a Nashville suburb. The home and land are scheduled to be sold Friday on the courthouse steps. Tax records show Jones purchased the property in July 2006 for $1.5 million, but he defaulted on the terms and conditions of a mortgage.

Asia-Pacific tourney moved one day later

MARK RABAGO

From left, the CNMI all-star teams in the Junior, Senior, and Big Leagues will see action against teams from Guam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Hong Kong when the 2008 Asia-Pacific Little League Tournament kicks off this weekend at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The start of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament in the Junior, Senior, and Big League has been moved from June 27 to 28 to accommodate Hong Kong, whose players will only arrive on Saipan this coming Saturday.

According to CNMI District Administrator James Ada, the Hong Kong team will plane in at 8am on June 28. Hong Kong Little Leaguers will see action in the Big League division of the Asia-Pacific tourney.

"We want to accommodate the team coming from Hong Kong who are coming on the 28th. It's ugly to start the tournament and not all the teams are here for the opening ceremony," he said.

Ada also said that aside from the opening date moved to a day later, the Big League will also be missing one team following the decision of India to cancel its participation in the Asia-Pacific tourney.

India, which was also supposed to play in the Big League, decided against sending a team to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament due to the prohibitive cost of airfare.

"They couldn't afford the rate of the airlines. They were supposed to join the Big League but they pulled out in the last minute because of the rise in airfare. They, however apologized for the inconvenience and wish us the best for the tournament," said Ada.

He said from around $1,700 per head, the cost for an India-Saipan roundtrip ticket has ballooned to more than $2,000 per passenger.

As it stands now, the Junior League will have four teams, host CNMI, Guam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The Senior League, meanwhile, will have three—the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines, while the Big League will feature teams from the CNMI, Guam, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

The 18-player Indonesian team is expected to be the first team to arrive on Saipan, coming in at 1:30am on June 25.

The Philippine team, consisting of 70 players and coaches, will touch ground at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport a few hours later at 5:30pm.

Guam's 70-man delegation arrives the next day on June 26 with the aforementioned Hong Kong team, made up of 21 players and coaches, coming on June 28.

With the teams in place, Saipan Little League Baseball Association Mike Borja, meanwhile, announced that the opening ceremony for the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament is set for 1pm on June 28 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It will be preceded by an 11am technical meeting for managers and team representatives along with umpires at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The first game of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament is scheduled at 3pm on June 28, which will the CNMI Big League All-Stars against their counterparts from Guam.

PNG

From Page 28

at 10th with a 23.08, while Jesus Iguel, Luis Iguel, Juan Iguel, and Jericho Cruz were 18th, 22nd, 24th, and 25th with times of 24.17, 24.90, 25.49, and 25.86, respectively.

Me had another first place finish in the men's 400m, tearing the tape the same time as PNG's Mowen Boino (48.45). Second place went to Samoa's Aunese Curreeen (49.52).

In the women's 400m, Betty Barua of PNG won the race, hands down, with a time 56.58. Fiji's Salote Meruela (60.85) was second with Yvonne Bennett of the CNMI taking third (61.34).

The 100m hurdles had Samoa's Monique Lafaialii winning the women's race in 16.59, followed by the CNMI's Jacque Wonenberg and Ana Tenorio, 18.05 and 18.74.

The men's 100m hurdles was topped by Cyprien Teuhi of Tahiti (15.81) with Guam's Kenneth Karosich and Tahiti's Maui Barff coming second and third with times of 15.92 and 16.18, respectively.

The field events, meanwhile, saw Kelly Humpries of Australia winning the hammer with a throw of 49.14m. Compatriot Olivia Birkett had a 35.10m for second place with Guam's Genie Gierardo taking third with her 32.16m. The CNMI's Jenequa Benavente wound up fifth (20.79m).

Thomas McGuire won another event for Australia with his 45.15m throw in the men's hammer. Fellow Aussie Travis Ambrum was the only other competitor and he registered a throw of 35.20m.

Leslie Copeland of Fiji took first place in the javelin (66.18m), followed by Cook Islands' Denis Taripo (45.27) and Daniel Tutai (44.52m).

Results of discuss were still not available as of press time.

PNG currently leads the women's team ranking with 81 points, followed by host Northern Marianas with 73 and Guam a far third with 42 points. New Zealand (27), Cook Islands (26), Fiji (24), Tahiti (18), Australia (18), and Samoa (16) make up the rest of the field in the women's division.

Fiji, meanwhile, has a slim lead over PNG in the men's standings with 79 points. PNG has 76.5 points followed by the CNMI (74), Tahiti (53), New Caledonia (30), New Zealand (24.5), Samoa (22), Cook Islands (22), Australia (18), Solomon Islands (17), Guam (17), Kiribati (9), Vanuatu (9), and Federated States of Micronesian (6).

The 2008 Oceania Championships unfurls Thursday with an opening ceremony at the American Memorial Park. It will be preceded by the Cross Country event that starts bright and early at 6am at Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

2010

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"We may hold two Championships in 2010 because [that year will be] the first time the International Olympic Committee will be holding a World Youth Olympics. So, the council will consider tomorrow holding an under-18 area Championships separately from the open Championships."

Mullins said the council has the option to award the two events to one country or award one the open and the other one the 18-and-under Championships.

The council is made up of representatives from Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, Australia, and New Zealand in the OAA.

With regards to the CNMI's hosting of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and the about-to-unfold 2008 Oceania Championships on Thursday, the OAA official had nothing but good reviews for the host nation.

"There's plenty of food and I just hope that they [athletes] don't get high on a few kilos. They're enjoying the three hotels that they're at. They're using the swimming pool and have spent a little time on the beach. All the teams are enjoying themselves here. They're enjoying the local hospitality a lot," she said, adding that some athletes have also done their tourist bit around the island.

Mullins said everything appears to be set for the 2008 Oceania Championships as more and more athletes trickle in for the event.

"Tonight will have Tonga come in. The rest of the Solomon Islands team will come in. The rest of the Fijian team still has to arrive. We have Tuvalu coming in also. This is their first time as an Oceania Athletics federation as before they were only an associate member of the OAA. Nauru will have arrived this afternoon," she said. "New Zealand arrived last Saturday. They are probably finding the weather a little warm and a little humid though."

WHELAN

From Page 28

and Jack Hardy in the 71-and-over age group.

The Silver Streak memorializes the late president of DFS Galleria Saipan, Tom Picarro, who served the company 1979 to 1992. He used to run along Beach Road waving to passers by. He had a great head of white hair and that is where organizers got the name Silver Streak.

DFS Galleria Saipan associate store manager and race coordinator Wolf Mojica said trophies and in-kind prizes were awarded for the top male and female finishers as well as first, second, and third place in 13 age groups.

The fun run started at the DFS Galleria Saipan's main entrance along Beach Road. Participants then headed south on Beach Road to the Japanese Tank at the intersection of Quartermaster Road then turned around and finished at DFS Galleria Saipan.

Proceeds from the Silver Streak went to a local charity and DFS Galleria Saipan also gave away T-shirts and tank tops to the first 175 finishers of the race. Drinks, water, and fruits also were provided to participants.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	31	.603	_
Tampa Bay	44	31	.587	1 1/2
New York	41	35	.539	5
Baltimore	38	36	.514	7
Toronto	36	41	.468	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	41	34	.547	_
Minnesota	40	36	.526	1 1/2
Detroit	36	39	.480	5
Cleveland	35	41	.461	6 1/2
Kansas City	33	43	.434	8 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	46	30	.605	_
Oakland	41	34	.547	4 1/2
Texas	39	38	.506	7 1/2
Seattle	26	49	.347	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	42	35	.545	_
Florida	40	35	.533	1
New York	37	37	.500	3 1/2
Atlanta	38	39	.494	4
Washington	30	47	.390	12

Central Division

Chicago	48	28	.632	_
St. Louis	44	33	.571	4 1/2
Milwaukee	41	34	.547	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	36	40	.474	12
Houston	35	41	.461	13
Cincinnati	35	42	.455	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	39	37	.513	_
Los Angeles	35	40	.467	3 1/2
Colorado	32	44	.421	7
San Francisco	32	44	.421	7
San Diego	32	45	.416	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 4, Cincinnati 1
Atlanta 8, Seattle 3
Boston 5, St. Louis 3, 13 innings
Texas 5, Washington 3
Toronto 8, Pittsburgh 5
L.A. Angels 3, Philadelphia 2
Houston 3, Tampa Bay 2
Milwaukee 7, Baltimore 3
Minnesota 5, Arizona 3
Kansas City 11, San Francisco 10
N.Y. Mets 3, Colorado 1
Detroit 5, San Diego 3
Oakland 7, Florida 1
L.A. Dodgers 4, Cleveland 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 1

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP)–Final scores and earnings after Sunday's fourth round of the Travelers Championship, a $6 million (£4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 6,837-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC River Highlands (a-amateur; FedEx Cup points in parentheses):

FINAL ROUND

Stewart Cink (4500), $1,080,000	66-64-65-67	262
Hunter Mahan (2200), $528,000	68-63-67-65	263
Tommy Armour III (2200), $528,000	69-64-65-65	263
Heath Slocum (1200), $288,000	67-66-64-67	264
Vijay Singh (1000), $240,000	66-68-64-68	266
Michael Allen (809), $194,250	69-66-68-64	267
Bubba Watson (809), $194,250	66-68-67-66	267
Brad Adamonis (809), $194,250	64-68-68-67	267
Kenny Perry (809), $194,250	66-67-65-69	267
Corey Pavin (625), $150,000	68-66-70-64	268
Michael Letzig (625), $150,000	68-68-63-69	268
Kevin Streelman (625), $150,000	73-63-62-70	268
Ben Curtis (442), $106,000	68-66-69-66	269
Brian Davis (442), $106,000	64-70-69-66	269
Tag Ridings (442), $106,000	66-70-66-67	269
Tom Pernice, Jr. (442), $106,000	65-68-68-68	269
John Huston (442), $106,000	65-69-67-68	269
Chris DiMarco (442), $106,000	66-69-64-70	269
Justin Rose (272), $65,250	65-72-66-67	270
Briny Baird (272), $65,250	67-70-66-67	270
Tim Herron (272), $65,250	66-69-67-68	270
Lucas Glover (272), $65,250	65-66-71-68	270
Bill Haas (272), $65,250	68-67-69-66	270
Nick O'Hern (272), $65,250	68-69-65-68	270
Jon Mills (272), $65,250	70-64-65-71	270
D.J. Trahan (272), $65,250	67-70-62-71	270
Kevin Sutherland (170), $40,800	67-65-72-67	271
Ken Duke (170), $40,800	65-66-70-70	271
Scott McCarron (170), $40,800	68-69-68-66	271
Jason Day (170), $40,800	67-67-66-71	271
Steve Elkington (170), $40,800	70-64-66-71	271
David Toms (170), $40,800	67-69-64-71	271
Chad Campbell (170), $40,800	67-70-62-72	271
Dustin Johnson (135), $32,400	66-70-67-69	272
Nicholas Thompson (135), $32,400	67-69-68-68	272
Bob Estes (135), $32,400	69-68-64-71	272
Webb Simpson (0), $25,800	67-70-67-69	273
Greg Kraft (108), $25,800	69-67-66-71	273
Joe Ogilvie (108), $25,800	70-67-68-68	273
Craig Kanada (108), $25,800	67-68-70-68	273
Carl Pettersson (108), $25,800	70-65-70-68	273
Peter Lonard (108), $25,800	66-70-70-67	273
Fred Funk (108), $25,800	66-68-65-74	273
Larry Mize (88), $21,000	67-70-67-70	274
Bob Sowards (70), $16,817	67-70-66-72	275
Johnson Wagner (70), $16,817	64-71-67-73	275
Jason Gore (70), $16,817	71-66-69-69	275
Steve Lowery (70), $16,817	64-73-69-69	275
Brenden Pappas (70), $16,817	69-65-65-76	275
Stuart Appleby (70), $16,817	68-66-72-69	275
Kent Jones (70), $16,817	66-70-73-66	275
Jason Allred (58), $13,851	68-67-68-73	276
Matt Kuchar (58), $13,851	67-70-66-73	276
John Rollins (58), $13,851	70-64-68-74	276
Kevin Na (58), $13,851	69-66-69-72	276
Olin Browne (58), $13,851	68-69-69-70	276
Andrew Buckle (58), $13,851	68-68-72-68	276
John Mallinger (58), $13,851	67-67-74-68	276
J.J. Henry (55), $13,320	66-70-68-73	277
a-Michael H. Thompson	65-67-72-73	277
Brett Rumford (55), $13,200	68-66-72-72	278
Notah Begay III (53), $12,900	66-71-70-72	279
Billy Mayfair (53), $12,900	66-70-71-72	279
Harrison Frazar (53), $12,900	69-68-71-71	279
Steve Marino (53), $12,900	67-70-72-70	279
Billy Andrade (52), $12,480	69-68-69-74	280
Charlie Wi (52), $12,480	68-68-72-72	280
Dudley Hart (52), $12,480	68-68-72-72	280
Vaughn Taylor (51), $12,240	67-68-78-69	282
Chris Stroud (50), $12,120	67-69-75-72	283
Peter Karmis (0), $11,940	65-70-72-77	284
Jim McGovern (49), $11,940	67-69-75-73	284

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Oceania Grand Prix

Photos by DAN KIMBALL

Samoa's Aunese Curreen leads the pack in the 1500m run of last Saturday's 2008 Oceania Grand Prix at the Oleai Track and Field.

The CNMI's Dexter Dillay concentrates before taking part in the javelin throw.

Above, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel competed in the 400m hurdles and clocked in at 61.95.

Right, from left, Pierre Bourret of Tahiti, Champ Untalan of the CNMI, Salome Dell of Papua New Guinea, and Matthew Mancao of the CNMI in the 1500m.

The CNMI's Champ Untalan in action in the 1500m.

Dexter Dillay recorded a 40.20m in the javelin throw.

PNG's Salome Dell ran with the men in the 1500m and finished in a time of 4:37:15, a new national record.

The CNMI's Nick Gross was the Day 1 winner in the javelin with a throw of 57.25.

Above, Australia's Brendan Whalen leads Tahiti's Teiva Izal in the 5000m.

Left, Brendan Whalen later pulled out of the 1500m race because he was annoyed that his competitor was clipping at his heels.

Asia-Pacific tourney moved one day later

The start of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament in the Junior, Senior, and Big League has been moved from June 27 to 28 to accommodate Hong Kong, whose players will only arrive on Saipan this coming Saturday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cink finally closes 1 out, wins Travelers Championship

Stewart Cink had a reputation as a good golfer who just couldn't finish off a tournament.

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PNG, Fiji ahead in team rankings

Dell, Erin shatter Championship records

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Oceania Grand Prix wrapped up yesterday with athletes form Papua New Guinea and Fiji leading their respective teams to the top of the men's and women's points standings.

Day 2 of the Grand Prix at the Oleai Track and Field also produced a number of quality races, foremost of which were the long jump of New Caledonia's Frederic Erin and the women's 800m of PNG's Solome Dell.

Erin, who had the crowd clapping before his jumps, leapt to 7.63m in his third attempt to better the 7.62m recorded in the Oceania Championships by New Zealand's Aaron Langdon in 1994.

Sandy Katusele of PNG finished second in long jump with his 6.90m, while taking third was New Zealand's John Kendall who had a 6.62m.

Host CNMI's Jesus Iguel and Trevor Ogumoro finished eighth and ninth with jumps of 5.67m and 5.35m, respectively.

Dell, for her part, improved on Helen Hawley's Oceania Championship record of 2:09.35, which the Kiwi posted in 1990, when she crossed the finish line of the 800m run in 2:08.96.

New Zealand's Emily Kinsler came in second with her 2:19.28 with Samoa's Eka Faitala taking third in a time of 2:37.79. The CNMI's Reylyn Sapong came in fourth, clocking in at 2:57.79.

In other track events, PNG's Toea Wisil came close to shattering the Oceania Championship record in the century dash when she ran the women's 100m in 24.72. A close second was teammate Mae Koime at 24.77 with the CNMI's Yvonne Bennett placing third with a time of 26.82.

The men's field, on the other hand, was won by Fiji's Isir Naikelekelevesi (1:55.48), followed by Tahiti's Teiva Izal (1:59.48), and Samoa's Iulio Lafai (1:59.57). The CNMI's Champ Untalan and Matthew Mancao came in sixth (2:15.20) and seventh (2:21.25).

The men's 200m sprint, meanwhile, saw Isoa Me of Fiji beat compatriot Iowane Dovumatua, 22.23 to 22.57. Third place went to PNG's Waname Egora with his 22.77.

The CNMI's Tyrone Omar came in

See PNG on Page 26

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Tahiti's Cyprien Teuhi shows the form that netted him first place in the 110m hurdles in the final day of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ/DAN KIMBALL
Above, New Caledonia's spread-eagled Frederic Erin and Papua New Guinea's Salome Dell, left, bettered Oceania Championship records in the long jump and 800m, respectively, yesterday.

2010 winning bid out today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Oleai Track and Field will have a much-needed breather today following the end of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix last night.

However, it will be back to round-the-clock use starting 1pm on Thursday when the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix finally gets rolling.

In between, the Oceania Athletics Association Council will meet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan today to discuss the federation's future plans, most specifically awarding the bid for the 2010 Oceania Championships.

OAA executive director Yvonne Mullins said two countries have submitted bids for the Championships set two years from now—New Caledonia and Australia.

She said aside from the decision where to hold the 2010 Championships, the council is also expected to vote on very significant changes in the 2010 competition.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Yvonne Bennett of the CNMI came away with two third place finishes in the Day 2 of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix, finishing third in the women's 200m and 400m sprints.

Whelan, Oshima top Silver Streak

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Two-time 2006 Oceania Championships gold medalist Brendan Whelan of Australia and veteran runner Mamiko Oshima topped the 15th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run held last Saturday along Beach Road.

Although official results are not available, Whelan reportedly broke the Silver Streak's old standing record by more than three minutes. Finishing second to the Aussie was noted Saipan multi-sport athlete Eli Torgeson.

In other categories, Andrew Kimball and Victoria Chentosova won the 5-10 age group, Hearthim Williams and Grace Kimball took the 11-20 division, while local boxer Aguinaldo Tesado Jr. won first place in the 21-30 category.

Other winners were Torgeson and Kimiko Hasegawa in the 31-40, Ernesto Apostol and Akane Imaya in the 41-50, Steven Pixley and Monica Yamaguchi in the 51-60, Bobbi Grizzard in the 61-70,

See WHELAN on Page 26

DAN KIMBALL
Mamiko Oshima won the women's open of the 15th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run held last Saturday along Beach Road.